The Literary Digest

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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

DOES CIVILIZATION MEAN PROGRESS?

THE questions which so many individuals are asking themselves at this season of the year—How far have I come? How fast am I going?—are questions which the eminent geographer and revolutionist, Elisée Reclus, attempts to answer with reference to mankind in general. Comparing civilized man as we know him to-day with primitive peoples and savage races, what sure advances have we made in the long succession of centuries? Prof. John Bach McMaster treats in the January *Atlantic* of one phase of this subject—the industrial development of this century; but M. Reclus makes a much more exhaustive inquiry.

He begins (*Contemporary Review*, December) by referring to the various conceptions held by various peoples as to what true progress is, and he defines it as "a complete development of the individual, comprehending the improvement of the physical being in strength, beauty, grace, longevity, material enrichment, and increase of knowledge—in fine, the perfecting of character, the becoming more noble, more generous, and more devoted." This progress of the individual, he adds, is "identified with that of society, united more and more intimately in a powerful solidarity." Of progress so defined, many pessimistic philosophers will deny that civilization exhibits any proofs. In illustration of this, M. Reclus refers to the condition of various "savage" tribes. He quotes a passage from Wallace's "Malay Archipelago" describing the approach to a perfect social state attained, despite their low stage of civilization, by communities in South America and in the East; he cites, also, the Negritos of the Philippine Islands, where "the members of the tribe all regard themselves as brothers," and where each "is absolutely devoted to the common interests;" also the Onnoungoun, or Aleutians, described by Archbishop Innokeuti as "the most affectionate of men," "beings of incomparable modesty and discretion." In these and in many other cases, a condition of mutual justice, well-being, and happiness has been attained "greatly surpassing that of a modern society urged on by a continual movement of renovation." These primitive peoples "have been able to attain their more contracted ideal of a well-balanced and happy life, while the human race, taken as a whole, is still very far from the ideal it dreams of."

Another advantage which is held by some of the primitive or savage tribes (not by any means all) is thus described:

"The man in a state more nearly approaching nature than the civilized man also possesses another immense advantage. He is more intimately acquainted with the animals and the plants, with the powerful scent of the earth, and the gentle or terrible phenomena of the elements; he has remained in direct communication with the planetary life of which he is the product, and which we only half see, separated from it by the artificial life in which we are shut up. He feels in perfect unity with all that which surrounds him, and of which, in his way, he comprehends the life as if all things moved with a rhythm which he himself obeyed. We are no longer able to understand the invocations which he makes to the spirits of the air and of the forest, and it is with great difficulty that we interpret the dances in which the savages celebrate the stars and the seasons. Symbolism conceived in natural things, very difficult to understand in our days, because we live in a conventional world, is among primitive peoples a sort of spontaneous language. . . . A real friendship is thus born between men and natural things. Thanks to a survival of a far-off past, the Walloon peasants still wish a happy new year to the trees of the field. Finding these objects an integral part of their surroundings, without any thought of freeing themselves from them, the primitive races are absolutely resigned to destiny, and surpass civilized men, speaking generally, in the simplicity with which they meet death. That fine end of life which in certain historical personages appears to us so admirable, because it is really exceptional, is the ordinary way of dying among savages; taught by necessity, they conform themselves naturally to things. Death is for them the simple continuation of life; they die in all tranquillity of soul without seeming to think that their exit will make the least void in the universe."

To such people, frequently, the approach of civilization means anything but progress. "Every explorer penetrating into a new country unknown to Europeans has had to begin by saying to himself, as he beheld the villages and happy populations, that his very presence was the preliminary announcement of destruction and massacre." Every change of history, indeed, has its debit and credit sides, and the development of civilization presents no exception. The destruction of this primitive simplicity, social well-being, and harmony with nature is the debit side of civilization. We quote again:

"Those who study the ocean of humanity, even to its abysses, say that each civilized nation is composed of classes placed one over another, representing in each age all the series of the anterior ages, with their corresponding intellectual and moral culture. The society of to-day contains all the previous societies in the state of survival; and the immediate contrast of extreme conditions renders their divergence striking. Even if the average man be now more prosperous and more happy than he formerly was when humanity, divided into innumerable tribes, was not yet conscious of itself as a whole, it is none the less true that the difference in style of life between the privileged and disinherited classes is greatly increased, and renders the unfortunate man more unfortunate; adding to his poverty envy and hatred, and aggravating his physical sufferings and his compulsory abstinence. In a primitive tribe the starving and the sick have only

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their bodily pain to bear; among our civilized peoples they have also to sustain the weight of humiliation, and even of public loathing, being nearly always inexorably fated to conditions of lodging and clothing which render them in appearance sordid and repulsive. Are there not districts in every great city which travelers carefully avoid for fear of their pestilential odors? No savage tribe inhabits such lairs. Glasgow, Dundee, and all other industrial cities have quarters containing groups of filthy habitations, to which it would be difficult to find a parallel in the homes of the primitive peoples. The barbarous Hindus, who live in the center of the peninsula clad in a few colored tatters, offer a spectacle relatively gay in comparison with the proletarians of luxurious England, who look so somber and lugubrious in their ragged and dirty garments."

Nevertheless, says M. Reclus, the conquests made by civilization in the way of progress are "immense":

"In the first place, humanity has arrived at self-consciousness. No nation, whatever it may wish or however it may protest, has its horizon limited by its own frontiers. The complete exploration of the earth and of the seas to their boundaries of ice, the perpetual movement of travelers passing from one world to another, the presence everywhere of sailors, of colonists, and of tourists, have truly made man the citizen of the planet; and patriotic as he may be, or is supposed to be, it is impossible for any one not to look beyond his native soil to the neighboring or distant countries in which events are taking place most important to the whole destiny of mankind. . . . The element of space has lost its importance, for man is able and willing to inform himself concerning all the phenomena of soil, climate, history, and society which distinguish the different countries. Now, to comprehend each other is already, in a certain degree, to mingle together. The contrast between land and land, nation and nation, continues everywhere to exist; but it grows less, and tends gradually to be neutralized in the comprehension of educated people.

"While geography conquered space, and thus made it possible for mankind to become conscious of itself from one end of the world to the other, the historian, turning toward the past, conquered time. The human race, which is unifying itself from one end of the world to the other, is equally attempting to realize itself under a form which embraces all the ages. This is a second conquest not less important than the first. All anterior civilizations, even the prehistoric, are henceforth more or less known to us, and consequently can, in a certain sense, be incorporated into the life of modern societies."

The third conquest is the prodigious development of modern industry, which has "more than doubled the power of human work and given to our life so great intensity of action."

The conquest in the intellectual realm has been equal to that in the material. "Strong in his power of penetrating the infinitely little, man can turn again to the infinitely great," "comparing the formation of a grain of sand with that of the solar system and of the universe in its immensity."

The writer then proceeds to the problems which the future presents. The first of these is that of bread for all. The next is that of education for all. The next is the attainment of "the ideal of reconquering from the past all that we have lost, and becoming again equal in force, in agility, in skill, in health, and in beauty with the finest, strongest, and most skilful men who have ever lived before us." The next problem is how to secure the universal brotherhood of man, and under a thousand apparent changes in the surface the solution of this problem "is being accomplished in the depths of the nations."

A NEW REPUBLIC RECOGNIZED.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND last week formally recognized, in the name of the United States, the Greater Republic of Central America, receiving as an accredited Minister J. D. Rodriquez, envoy of the Diet of the new Government. Mr. Cleveland took the opportunity to state that recognition is given and diplomatic relations are entered upon "in the distinct understanding that the responsibility of each of these republics to the United States of America remains wholly unaffected," and he added: "I discern in the articles of association from which the Diet derives its power a step toward a closer union of Central American states in the interest of their common defense and general welfare, and I welcome it as the precursor of other steps to be taken in the same direction, and which it is hoped may eventually result in the consolidation of all the states of Central America as one nation for all the purposes of their foreign relations and intercourse."

From the Philadelphia *Ledger* we quote interesting data regarding the new republic:

"The new confederation composed of the states of Honduras, Salvador, and Nicaragua, recognized by our State Department yesterday, under the title of the Greater Republic of Central America, is the fourth attempt to unite in political brotherhood the small republics of Central America. The nucleus of the present alliance is to be found in the treaty entered into in May, 1895, obliterating the commercial barriers between Nicaragua and Honduras. In that convention it was stipulated that the two republics should exert their influence upon the other Central American states to bring about a union of all of them. The movement will not be complete, therefore, until Costa Rica and Guatemala are in the fold. In that event the new nation will be known as the Republic of Central America. These states were embraced in the Empire of Mexico under Iturbide. When Mexico became a republic, in 1824, they dissolved the Mexican alliance and formed a federation which existed three years. Another federation was formed two years later, in 1829, which had an uncertain life of nine years, expiring in 1838 by a revolt in Guatemala. Another federal republic was organized in 1842. In 1847 a union was effected between Honduras, San Salvador, and Nicaragua, and this union met its fate in the wars with Guatemala. In June of last year the Presidents of Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua agreed upon terms governing the external, political, and commercial relations of these states. These relations are to be regulated by a Diet composed of one representative from each legislature and one additional representative from each republic, and foreign ministers are to be appointed by the Diet.

"The temporary compact or constitution provides that it shall be the object of the Diet to preserve harmony among the nations composing the federation and ratify all treaties to that end; and the Congress shall pass upon all questions arising between foreign nations and the confederated republics. The new nation has no capital city, but the Diet will meet annually in each of the capitals of the republic, the order of the sessions to be determined by lot. The autonomy of the respective republics in the compact will be preserved, and local laws will remain operative unless in contravention of the constitution. An important feature of the constitution is the proviso that all treaties of friendship, ratified by the Diet, shall contain a clause providing that all controversies shall be settled by arbitration. Happily, the recognition of the new confederation by the United States will create no friction with another nation, and the delicate controversies likely to arise between this country and Spain, by the recognition of a Cuban republic, will be avoided in the present instance. It was only necessary that our Government should be convinced of the permanency of the Greater Republic of Central America to grant the desired recognition. There are some outstanding controversies between Costa Rica and Nicaragua as to boundaries, and Guatemala claims some concessions to her greater size before she will join the union, but it is to be hoped that these two states may soon find it to their interest to unite with the other states.

"Salvador has an estimated population of 800,000 of aboriginal and mixed races, among whom are 20,000 whites or persons of European descent. The revenue is about $9,000,000 annually. Honduras has a population of 450,000, descended mainly from Indians, with a small contingent of Spanish origin. Its annual revenue is about $1,500,000. The population of Nicaragua is estimated at 380,000 and, including uncivilized Indians, 420,000. The great mass of the population is composed of aboriginal Indians, negroes, and mixed races, with a small infusion of Europeans. The annual revenue is nearly $2,000,000. The admission of Guatemala would greatly strengthen the confederation. Its population is 1,800,000, and its revenue in 1894 was $11,831,815."

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SECRETARY CARLISLE'S REPORT.

IN line with the recommendations in President Cleveland's message, the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury (submitted to Congress December 21) advocates the retirement of greenbacks and United States Treasury notes, and denies the necessity of further protective tariff legislation. Against government note issues he says:

"The issue and redemption of circulating notes is not a proper function of the Treasury Department or of any other department of the Government. While the Government has power to borrow money, it is not its duty to issue public obligations merely for the purpose of providing a paper currency for use in the transaction of business, nor has it the constitutional power, in my opinion, to make its promises legal tender in the payment of private debts. Such a policy, even if sanctioned by the Constitution, instead of imparting strength and stability to our currency system, seriously endangers it by the introduction of political and partizan considerations into the management of a subject which ought to be regulated entirely by the business interests of the people and by the laws of trade and the principles which control honest commercial intercourse."

The Secretary renews his recommendation of long-term bond issues for the gradual redemption of greenbacks, but, in lieu of that, he advocates the retirement and cancellation of a maximum amount of notes each year when voluntarily presented by the holders and redeemed in gold. He would have the Secretary clothed with power to apply surplus funds in the Treasury and to issue bonds, if necessary, to secure the fixed maximum of redemption.

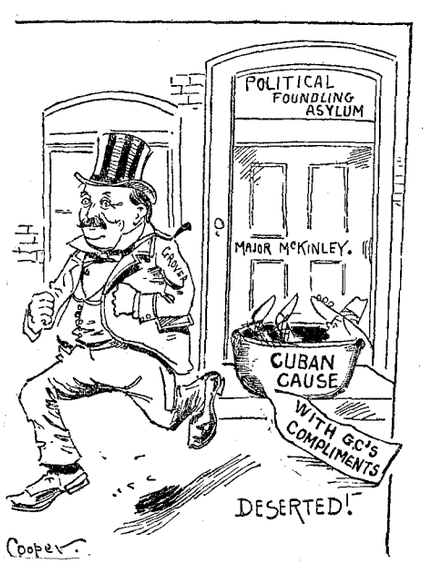
Mr. Carlisle declares that the national banks should be required to redeem their own notes, and favors amendments to the national banking laws to permit the issue of circulating notes equal in amount to the face value of the bonds deposited, to reduce the tax on notes to one fourth of one per cent. per annum, and to establish branch banks for the transaction of all kinds of business now allowed, except the issue of circulating notes.

The report deals at length with the question of revenue from the Administration standpoint. The government revenue from all sources during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, was $409,475,408, and the expenditures were $434,678,654, leaving a deficit of $25,203,245. Over and above the receipts from ordinary sources the cash of the Treasury was increased $111,170,376 by the sale of bonds and refunding certificates. As compared with 1895, the ordinary receipts increased $19,102,205. The Secretary's estimate of expenditures and receipts for the fiscal year 1897 and 1898 on the basis of current operations foreshadows a probable deficit of $64,500,000 in 1897 and $45,718,970 for 1898. With improved business conditions and proper economy in administration the Secretary thinks deficits in future may be avoided.

Against a return to high tariffs for either revenue or protection the Secretary makes an extended argument. He gives figures to support his contention that a small and decreasing fraction of the capital and labor of the country is engaged in industries that are exposed to foreign competition; that our exports of manufactured goods are increasing, and this argues an increasing list of manufactured articles that need no protection and an increasing list that will not be imported and therefore will not yield a revenue. He holds that within a few years the customs revenue must cease to be the leading source of the nation's income unless duties are levied on commodities now exempt. There are few articles now taxed which could be made to yield more revenue by an increase of the rate of duty. A low rate of tax would now entirely exclude articles that a few years ago constituted some of our leading imports. The commercial and industrial changes which are rapidly equalizing the cost of production in various countries can not be ignored in future tariff legislation. "Any tax," he says, "whether impost or excise, which increases the cost of commodities to the consumer beyond the amount collected by the Government is unjust and indefensible upon any correct economic principle."

Economy Is Necessary.—"The extravagance of the last session of Congress is already making itself felt. It was predicted at the time of the passage of the unusually liberal River and Harbor bill that useless expenditures were being increased in order to give excuse for higher taxation. In view of these and other facts the Secretary's recommendation for economy is exceedingly opportune. 'The great increase in the ordinary expenditures of government during the last seven years,' he says, 'has been without precedent in our history in time of peace, and presents a subject which imperatively demands the most serious consideration of Congress.' It is pointed out that there has been heavy increase in every single item of expenditure except that of interest on the public debt. Provision ought to be made for some increase of revenue, to be sure, but if proper attention is given to the control of appropriations there need be no heavy increase. The secretary even expresses the opinion that if business activity is resumed the revenues will be sufficient. But grant the need of some increase, there is no excuse for excessive taxation and radical revision of schedules except extravagant expenditures and the desire to afford

TWO VIEWS OF THE CUBAN QUESTION.



—*The Herald, Baltimore.*

HOW LONG WILL UNCLE SAM REST ON HIS OARS?—*The Journal, Chicago.*

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high protection to special interests."—*The Record (Ind.), Chicago.*

Both Right and Wrong.—"The deficiency for the current fiscal year is $64,500,000, and the estimated shortage for next year, exclusive of the sinking fund, is $45,718,971. The total for three years is $137,811,738. And yet in the face of this the Secretary sustains the view taken by President Cleveland, and says that 'no revenue legislation is immediately necessary.' He bases this extraordinary opinion on the fact that of the $293,481,000 received from the sale of bonds since March 4, 1893, there is left in the Treasury about $125,000,000 above the gold reserve. The Secretary has the candor, which the President lacked, to admit that this remainder 'was procured by the issue of bonds for a purpose other than ordinary expenses.' He does not call it 'a surplus fortunately in the Treasury.' He confesses that the Government is and for three years has been living on money borrowed for redemption purposes. And yet he advises that the remnant be spent, ignoring the probability that an exhaustion of the Treasury balance would lead to another raid on the gold reserve and create the necessity for another bond issue.

"All that the Secretary says as to the need of retrenchment and rest is true. His argument against increasing the tariff for the purpose of either protection or revenue is unanswerable. But in yielding to the President's obstinately held opinion that the Government does not need more income he is altogether wrong."—*The World (Dem.), New York.*

Sound on Currency; Unsound on Revenue.—"The Secretary estimates that of the total population engaged in all gainful occupations about 6½ per cent. will embrace all of those in pursuits subject to more or less foreign competition. He alleges that the failures of many of our industries in the past have been attributed to insufficient protection against competition from abroad, when the real causes were unfavorable locations and lack of skill and experience on the part of their managers, or over-supply of products by domestic establishments. . . . Secretary Carlisle favors a system making revenue the sole object of tariff legislation, and declares that the necessities of the situation demand the adoption of a system of taxation which will utilize as its resources articles of a purely revenue nature.

"Like all of Mr. Carlisle's papers, his last annual report as Secretary of the Treasury is able and, tho profound, informing. His views on the currency accord with the opinions of our most enlightened thinkers and agree with that sentiment of honor and justice which was so unmistakably indorsed and proclaimed by the people at the November election. While recognizing the purity of his motives, the breadth of his learning, and the value of his experience, Secretary Carlisle, in *The Ledger's* belief, goes counter, so far as his tariff theories are concerned, to the best approved public policy. As to his deliverances on the money question, he is in the daylight; on the revenue question he is in the shade, if not in the night. A tariff that shall provide revenue and furnish adequate protection without promoting monopoly or oppressing the consumer—this is what is demanded by sound public policy."—*The Ledger (Ind. Rep.), Philadelphia.*

Too Optimistic a View.—"Now, as ever, Secretary Carlisle takes a more favorable view of the near future of the Treasury with regard to the deficiency of the revenue than is justified by the current record. He estimates that the present fiscal year will show a revenue of $318,000,000, aside from the postal service, while the expenditures will amount to $382,500,000, a deficit of $64,500,000. This is not, goodness knows, a prospect to be proud of, but one may well fear that it will be worsened in the result. The returns for the first five months of the fiscal year have been made up, and they show an average deficiency very much larger than that allowed by the Secretary for the seven months to be heard from. In the five-months' period the Secretary's estimates average: Receipts, $26,330,000; expenditures, $34,319,000; a deficiency of $3,507,600 per month. For the seven months to come the Secretary's estimates average: Receipts, $26,621,400; expenditures, $30,129,000; a deficiency of $3,507,000 per month. It will be noticed that on a revenue averaging substantially the same the Secretary looks for a reduction of over one half in the average monthly deficiency. It is a pity that he still turns a cold shoulder upon arithmetic and insists upon painting the future of the Treasury in rose color, or at least in as much of it as he can venture to put on."—*The Herald (Ind.), Boston.*

Recommendations Fall on Deaf Ears.—"Mr. Carlisle reiterates his familiar recommendations for the retirement of the greenbacks. They will fall on deaf ears. Both President Cleveland and Secretary Carlisle have weakened their argument for the retirement of the government demand notes by attributing to them evils which were almost entirely due to a deficient revenue. It will be freely conceded that if the government receipts are insufficient to meet its expenditures and preserve the Treasury gold reserve the greenbacks and Treasury notes provide an inconveniently direct route to the Treasury's supply of gold. Secretary Carlisle dislikes that currency because of its use in depleting his reserve, but that use of the government currency was itself only a symptom and consequence of a graver malady.

"Make the revenue sufficient, and the greenbacks and Treasury notes will be used to draw gold from the Treasury as rarely as before 1893. We expect to see this currency retired sooner or later. It will be retired when this can be done without inconvenience and when something as good or better is ready to take its place. But it will not be retired by the Republicans simply because a deficient revenue made it difficult to maintain gold payments on government paper, since this condition will no longer exist as soon as the Republican Party is fully in power."—*The Press (Rep.), Philadelphia.*

THE DESTINY OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

WHO shall say that we yet see the end of the democratic movement, that we know its destiny or that we can be sure that we have discovered its persistent tendencies? Historian Lecky's discouraging view of extant democracy in his "Democracy and Liberty" [LITERARY DIGEST, May 30, 1896] raises the questions in the mind of the critic. By framing a partial answer, F. H. Giddings, professor of sociology at Columbia University, New York (*Political Science Quarterly*, December) challenges Mr. Lecky's position, which is, in substance, that democracy means the rule of ignorance. Having pointed out that it is an error to confound the state organized in the constitution with the state (society) behind the constitution, Professor Giddings emphasizes the fact that democracy has only now begun to develop its positive program. Democracy, he holds, originates in resistance to oppression; it is the child of liberty; historically it is always after the property-accumulating middle classes succeed in establishing the institutions of civil liberty that they extend political privileges to the wage-earning multitude:

"Liberty has led inevitably to universal suffrage. But it has done so only because the masses have suffered from wrongs and neglects that have called for remedy, and because the ruling classes have desired to carry out policies that could be accomplished only through the political aid of the masses. The student of political science will never understand democracy until he sees clearly that its origin is not due to the formulation of any positive program by the masses themselves.

"The institution of universal suffrage is, therefore, only the first of two historical stages, the second of which we can but conjecturally forecast. The masses have had political power conferred upon them by their political superiors. They have associated it with the rectification of wrongs from which they have hitherto suffered. Their political conceptions, therefore, have been almost wholly negative. How to use political power positively to further their economic and moral well-being is a problem to which they have only very recently begun to give earnest attention. That they are beginning to reflect upon it is made evident wherever there is a serious interest in the public-school system, or in questions of public morals and of public health."

Hence the writer contends that it is too soon to say that democracy must continue to be the rule of ignorance:

"That it may so continue, is not to be denied. But there are two possibilities of better things, to each of which attention must now briefly be given. It is possible, first, that the masses, in attempting to formulate a positive program for the use of their power in furtherance of their own well-being, will speedily learn

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the great lesson which the middle classes learned some hundreds of years ago. That lesson is, that the only way in which political power can be made to further the well-being of a community or of a class is through the establishment and the maintenance of civil liberty. Experience has over and over again demonstrated —it will infallibly continue to demonstrate—that a high degree of material prosperity can be attained only through freedom of enterprise and of organization, and that the highest type of personality can be developed only through intellectual liberty and individual responsibility. The middle-class civilization that Mr. Lecky so ardently admires has been developed because the middle classes perceived that liberty was the one means through which they could utilize their power in the creation of wealth, art, science, and moral order. In the development of the internal policy of the great labor organizations there are signs that the wage-earners are learning the truth, that whether or not liberty is, as Proudhon said, 'not the daughter but the mother of order,' she is at any rate the mother of progress. If this truth becomes a popular conviction, the democracy of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries will be very different from that of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

"The second possibility is that the voting masses will follow a rational guidance. Whatever the form of the state that is organized in the constitution, the state behind the constitution can never be absolutely democratic. This is the explanation of phenomena that have puzzled the theorists and the historians for many centuries. It is conceivable, tho not probable, that the industrial organization of society, like the political electorate, may become democratic. Cooperative associations may displace the *entrepreneur*. It is possible that all the minor forms of association also may become wholly democratic. But never, by any possibility, can democracy establish itself within the cultural organization. Differences of mental ability and of moral power will always exist among men; and by a law that is as absolute in the realm of mind as the law of gravitation is in the physical world, inferior men will continue to defer to their superiors, to believe dicta instead of thinking propositions, and to imitate examples instead of originating them. This is why the democracy that has rebelled against the traditional modes or forms of authority, and has become distrustful of the leadership of cultivated men, invariably evolves that most preposterous and contemptible of potentates, the 'boss.' Leadership of some kind men must and will have."

Professor Giddings concludes, therefore, that the destinies of political democracy will be determined ultimately by the character of the aristocracy that rules the state behind the constitution. Of the character of that aristocracy he gives this striking forecast:

"The ignorant masses of Mr. Lecky's formula will not rule through their ignorance. They will rule through their deference to great humbugs, great scoundrels, great priests, or great men. At present they rule through their deference to the great humbugs and the great scoundrels, and so lend support to Mr. Lecky's belief that democracy is the rule of ignorance, and afford apparent justification of Mr. Carlyle's definition of the people as a certain number of millions, mostly fools. If it could be shown that the 'boss' is a creation of political democracy, the outlook would indeed be dark. But there are many reasons for believing that popular thought on this question inverts the order of cause and effect. The 'boss' is probably not the product of democracy. The misdeeds and follies of democracy are probably due to the independent existence of the 'boss.' The 'boss' flourishes and reigns because men have for the time being lost their faith in the true aristocracy of intellect and conscience. Only to the faint-hearted and to the short-sighted should there be any need to say that a determined effort to restore that faith is to be the most momentous sociological phenomenon of the next fifty years. The initiative may be taken by the Roman Catholic Church. Accepting democracy as the inevitable form of the state within the Constitution, the Roman Catholic Church fully and deliberately intends to make itself again what once it was—the ruling aristocracy of the state behind the constitution. If this purpose becomes more and more obvious, the forces of Protestantism will again be roused to intense activity. The principles of liberty and of individual responsibility will again be opposed to the principle of authority and will again fascinate the minds of rationalistic men.

"In all probability, therefore, the destiny of democracy is to be controlled either by religious authority or by a much more earnest and thoughtful type of Protestant liberalism than that which prevails to-day. In a struggle between these forces men of all ranks and conditions, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, will give their allegiance to worthy leaders. The 'boss' with his deeds of ignorance and of evil will sink into oblivion. It should be needless to add that such a struggle, if it comes, will be a contest of ideas."

REPUBLICANS AND INTERNATIONAL BIMETALISM.

IT is a misinterpretation of McKinley's victory to account it "a decision to permanently accede to the gold standard," according to Senator W. E. Chandler, of New Hampshire. Mr. Chandler is a member of the Senatorial caucus committee recently appointed to devise legislation in behalf of an international monetary conference, in accordance with that plank of the Republican national platform which favors international bimetalism. The Senator analyzes the recent election to make his point, in *The National Review*, London, for December. Of election results he says, in substance:

Few Americans desire silver monometallism, which Mr. Bryan's main proposition seemed to involve. The proposed change of monetary system was held to be an act of national dishonor, inflation, and repudiation. Maintenance of the parity of the two metals and payment of the national debt in gold or its equivalent are policies supported by the people. American conservatism was alarmed at doctrines associated with the Bryan platform. A majority of the people wish a more energetic foreign policy. But nothing—not even national honor in connection with the currency—had influence in the campaign like the issue of protection to American industries. "The people felt sure protection would help them out of hard times. They were not sure free coinage would help them."

The Senator continues:

"We have said by the election that we will not go to free-silver coinage now and send gold to a premium, and pay our public and private debts in virtually debased currency, and join the silver monometallist nations. But we said in our St. Louis platform that we favored bimetalism and pledged ourselves to promote it, and Mr. McKinley in his letter of acceptance repeated the pledge.

"It is true that, as the sharp and bitter conflict went on, the contending symbols became, briefly, gold and silver. The opposing badges and the hats were yellow and white. But now the fight is over, the distinctions and limitations in this complex problem of money will again appear and be regarded.

"That the United States is opposed to the single-gold standard, and is in favor of retracing in due course and with careful regard to the national honor the steps taken in the demonetization of silver, until both gold and silver shall be admitted to free coinage at the ratio of 15½ to 1 and made the standard money of the world and the measures of the values of the world, is a proposition which would receive the suffrages of four fifths of our voters, if this proposition alone could be fairly presented to them, even without further debate. They have sufficiently informed themselves to believe that the quantity of real money, and not the money which must be redeemed in some other money, determines the prices of the world's commodities, that the demonetization of half the world's real money is slowly reducing prices and crushing debtors, and that the use of only gold as money of final redemption is placing the great instrument of exchange in commerce upon such a narrow basis that the present depression in production and trade will continue, with occasional and temporary reactions, for an indefinite period, and with manifold evils to the human race the world over.

"To such convictions, entertained by a vast majority of American voters committed to bimetalism, the friends of such a monetary system may confidently appeal. The question is not one of four years, nor yet of a decade. It may take as long to remonetize silver as it has taken to realize the paralyzing influence of demonetization. But the fact that six out of thirteen millions of American voters have given their ballots for the wild project of immediate free-silver coinage by the United States alone shows

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that the question is one which must be compromised and adjusted in some way. The advocates of gold monometalism are crying out that the silver question is dead. They hope, but do not really believe, that this is true. Never was it more important for bimetalists to exert themselves. Mr. McKinley is pledged by his own words to cooperation with us."

From the newspaper comment provoked by such utterances we quote the following:

A Diplomatic Question.—"The subject is in fact diplomatic and involves the making of treaties. Why should it not then be brought to the attention of foreign governments in an authoritative way through our representatives abroad? We have tried the how-not-to-do-it plan often enough. Why not go directly to the point? How long would it take our Ambassadors at London, Paris, and Berlin to ascertain whether those governments would agree to a treaty or an arrangement establishing bimetalism? If they would not agree that ends it. If there were a prospect they would agree then the details could be arranged precisely as they are in all treaties. In this way American diplomacy can settle a question which has perplexed our statesmen and politicians for the past sixteen years."—*The Times-Herald (McKinley Ind.), Chicago.*

Humoring the Bimetalists.—"There was a disposition early in the fight to coquet with the matter as had been the almost immemorial custom of both parties, and to divide bimetalism into two separate questions—national and international—but it was soon perceived that there could be no dalliance with such a serious matter, and that the opponents of Bryan must stand courageously for the gold standard, or go down in the struggle. Those who gave the matter careful consideration—and their name was legion—failed to perceive any difference, except one of degree, between the national and the international folly. They reached the very sensible conclusion that if the United States, by a solemn fiat, was unable to change the value of an article of trade, a combination of nations would be powerless also, and international bimetalism was relegated to the rear. . . . Every unprejudiced statesman knows that an international agreement is an impossibility, and that is the reason why a number of them are willing to humor the bimetalists."—*The American (Rep.), Baltimore.*

The International Deadlock.—"The situation is, therefore, something like this: France, with a Ministry favorable to bimetalism, will not move without Germany, and Germany declines all initiative unless there be first secured the reopening of the Indian mints, which, it is authoritatively declared, can not even be considered till the international bimetallic league of continental Europe has been duly formed. It is as absolute a deadlock as could well be devised, tho reams of talk favorable to bimetalism from high official quarters may be quoted to show how much the cause has advanced since the conference of 1892."—*The Herald (Ind.), Boston.*

Bimetalists Can be Put on Record.—"We are as firmly convinced as at any time past that the United States is strong enough to restore silver to its old place upon a parity with gold without waiting upon the action or for the consent of any other nation on earth. But we are not disposed to sit down and argue about what could or could not be done under conditions which do not exist. The country has declared against independent action, and, altho it is anything but agreeable, we have to submit. It is well enough to make up our minds to renew the fight for independent coinage four years hence if we do not sooner secure bimetalism through some other means. But we don't want to wait four years, if we can secure the remonetization of silver at an earlier date.

"Whether we can secure an international agreement or not, we at least can try. We can do even more than make a show of that kind. By very emphatically indorsing the movement for an international conference we may commit some public men to the policy of bimetalism, who, if let alone, might, like the priest and the Levite, 'pass by on the other side.' It will be just as well to compel these men to toe the mark and stand up for international bimetalism, now that there is a prospect that it may be secured. Suppose the effort to secure an international agreement fails, we shall have, by making the attempt, but strengthened our demand for independent action, and it will go hard with international bimetalists to find an excuse for not joining with us in that demand, if the international conference fails."—*The Republican (Silver Rep.), Denver, Colo.*

International Bimetalism a Dream.—"Our esteemed Republican contemporary, the Cleveland *Leader*, emits what follows in compliment to the Hon. Edward Oliver Wolcott's resolution, adopted by the Senate, for the appointment of a committee of five to propose a plan for legislation with a view to an international conference about bimetalism:

"This shows that the Republicans intend to keep the pledge made in the platform adopted at St. Louis regarding free-coinage of gold and silver under an international agreement, and if the silver men in the Senate do not oppose the proposed legislation, as they are likely to do, because international bimetalism would not give them the silver monometalism and incidental repudiation for which they are striving, it is likely that something definite will be accomplished.

"There is no doubt that the sentiment in favor of international bimetalism is growing abroad. The movement has received considerable impetus recently in France and Germany, and large sums of money are being expended by the English bimetalists in their effort to create public sentiment favorable to a larger use of silver as money.

"The Republican Party is not unfriendly to silver, in spite of the Popocratic attempts to commit it to the advocacy of a permanent gold standard in this country.

"This pledge in the Republican platform never ought to have been made, and was not honestly made. It was a mere springe to catch silver woodcocks. Nobody with any sense expected or expects anything to come out of that pledge. As a matter of fact, it was the one weakness and illogicality in the Republican financial position in the recent canvass. It was an attempt to seem to hedge, without any real intention of hedging. . . .

"The Cleveland *Leader's* declaration that 'the Republican Party is not unfriendly to silver in spite of the Popocratic attempt to commit it to the advocacy of a permanent gold standard' is a specimen of the cowardly and hypocritical talk on the part of Republicans who know better, which did so much to foster the silver craze. The Republican Party, in the last campaign, fought and licked silver monometalism, the false 'bimetalism' about which the Popocrats and Populists chattered; and the Republican Party fought for and won the victory for a permanent gold standard, gold monometalism. It is strange that there should be in Mark Hanna's town a newspaper so ignorant or so hypocritical as to assert that the Republican Party is not in favor of what it battled for this year. Gold monometalism or silver monometalism; those are the necessary alternatives. International bimetalism is a dream."—*The Sun, New York.*

RESPONSIBILITY OF BANK DIRECTORS.

THE failure of the National Bank of Illinois, in Chicago, December 21, which caused several other failures of banks and business firms, has occasioned considerable newspaper criticism of bank directors in general. Mr. Eckels, Controller of the Currency, says that the fallure was due to "injudicious, reckless, and imprudent methods, followed by the officers and not checked by the directors, tho their attention had been individually called to the same and over their individual signature they had promised to remedy the weak points in the bank's condition."

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* scores the purely perfunctory bank director as follows:

"The time has come to make an example of bank directors who do not direct. They should no longer be allowed to escape because they did not know what was going on. They were there to find out. A bank director said recently that he could not get the information he wanted without insulting the president and the cashier by assuming to question their statements—another good reason why the present system should cease. If bank directors do not and practically are not allowed to direct, it is time there was a new system established. The last statement of the Illinois National Bank showed deposits exceeding $12,000,000. Of course, there will be a dividend eventually to the depositors, but in the mean time many of them will be ruined or suffer great losses by their inability to get their money when they need it. If the directors are the cause of all this suffering, why should they not be made to answer in a way that will be an example to others? The bank director who does not direct is a public enemy. Usu-

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ally he is a man of the highest reputation and of good financial standing, and this gives the public confidence in his institution. If he fails to do his duty and his depositors suffer, he should be made to pay the penalty."

The New York *Journal of Commerce* reviews the failure as showing one of the pitfalls of one-man power in banking:

"The failure was of the sort that will occasionally happen under the best banking system that can be devised and in times of great prosperity. Under a better condition of business of course it is possible that the loans to the Calumet Electric Railway would have proved good, but after all this is only an incidental consideration. The essential fact is that the managers of the bank loaned about two and a half times the capital to one company, and if a loan of $900,000 concealed in the foreign exchange account, but really made to this same Calumet Company, be additional to and not a part of the nearly two and a half millions originally stated to have been loaned to the company, then a good deal more than three times the capital of the bank was loaned to one borrower.

"A sum equal to half the capital of the bank was loaned a concern in which a son-in-law of the president of the bank was a partner, and it is asserted, and also denied, that another half million dollars was loaned to another concern in which another son-in-law was a partner. It is reported that there are nearly a million dollars in bad loans besides these, but whether they were to members of the family and personal friends does not yet appear. Probably no man is a perfectly good judge of the credit of a member of his family or a personal friend unless he is lending his own money, while the president of a bank is lending chiefly the money of other people.

"Three of the directors have already expressed their astonishment at the size of the loans made to the Electric Railway, which they say were concealed from them. They probably knew as little of the amount of the loans to the sons-in-law. The probability is that this is another case where the directors left the management of the bank to the president, and long sense of power without accompanying accountability had undermined his feeling of responsibility."

Chicago papers have in general treated the failure as of mere local inconvenience. The Baltimore *Herald* seeks to forestall criticism of the national bank law, saying:

"National banks, in consideration of the privileges which they enjoy, are hedged in with regulations. They are prevented from lending money on real estate or other collateral not readily convertible into money, and are subject to periodical examination by the Government. In the very nature of things, however, the examinations can not extend into the details of every transaction. Such an inquiry would require months. To a large extent examiners must rely on the statements furnished by the banks, and the possibility of injudicious loans or poor management is not excluded. Yet the safeguards which the Government saw fit to throw around the system have served in all but a very few instances to insure depositors against losses. Even where directors and stockholders suffered, the guaranties exacted by the Federal authorities and the reserve provisions sufficed to pay all claims after a time. Undeniably, the record of national banks, upon the whole, is such as to entitle them, in a high degree, to the confidence of the people."

OBSTACLES TO BUSINESS METHODS IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

PARADOXICAL tho it may be, it would appear that the chief obstacle to business methods in public affairs is the character of prevalent business methods. The secretary of the National Municipal League, however, tacitly makes a distinction in terms between business methods which are agreed upon as desirable in public affairs, and commercialism which is chiefly blamed for bad city government in America. Commercialism, according to the secretary, Clinton R. Woodruff (*North American Review*, December), is "undue absorption in private business, or an undue desire to accumulate wealth." This distinguishing American characteristic has produced a number of patent results:

"The returns in mercantile, manufacturing, and professional pursuits have been much larger than the honest returns to those holding equally responsible official positions in our cities. I admit there is a certain honor attached to public office; and that there should be a certain amount of self-sacrifice for the public welfare; but we may not always be able to afford such honors or make such sacrifices. So long as the returns from the same amount of application in public business are so disproportionate to those received from private business, we shall find the latter absorbing the best administrative and executive talent to the manifest detriment of the former. Then, again, a young man starting out in private business knows that, with diligent attention to details and close application, he will be enabled to improve his position and his emoluments. The result of his efforts will be in a direct ratio to the energy expended. Let the same young man enter the public service and his tenure of office will not depend on capacity or application, but, in nine cases out of ten, upon his usefulness to a political leader or organization. When this ends his tenure ends. . . .

"There is no denying the great constructive abilities of the Anglo-Saxon. In former times they were utilized in building up the state and nation and perfecting great governmental schemes; but of late years there has been little if any progress along governmental lines at all in keeping with the immense strides we have taken along commercial and manufacturing lines. The creation of great factories and great trusts and business concerns, the inventiveness displayed in mechanical and electrical trades, seem to have exhausted the constructive genius of the country. Here the question of returns comes in again. The same amount of skill and ability displayed in public affairs will not bring a tithe of the return that an equal amount exerted in private business would. . . .

"Another result of commercialism is seen in the indifference of the average voter, who is generally so wrapped up in his business that he forgets to discharge his duties as a citizen. He reasons that the amount of time he would devote to political affairs if expended in private business will yield a return very much larger than the increased tax he will be subjected to by permitting incompetent men to run the city. . . . The fact is that, after all that can be said against bad city government, the cost of maintaining it (at least from the financial view-point) is comparatively small and bears but indirectly upon the average citizen. The business man is accustomed to sacrifice a small benefit in one direction to earn a larger one in another; and he carries this principle into his consideration of public affairs. He will agree that we have bad government and should have better; but he sacrifices the benefit that would accrue to him in this direction to gain a larger one in his private affairs. . . .

"The spirit of commercialism has also had another effect, of a somewhat different character, however, from those mentioned. Many who devote their brains and energies to the consummation of great undertakings have found that it is good business to conciliate and control the governing powers. Constantly seeking franchises and privileges, they have realized that a better bargain can be made when all the parties to it are of one opinion and on one side. Their policy has therefore been to make the interest of the granting powers identical with their own by taking them 'in on the ground floor,' or by paying them outright for favorable votes and influence. This has been very much more profitable than paying to the city the true value of such privileges and franchises."

Other great obstacles to the application of proper business methods in public affairs, noted by Mr. Woodruff in this connection, are, in substance:

Partizanship, that prostitutes public office and public measures to party success; the mistaken cry of "Measures, not men!" the erroneous political perspective which subordinates the importance of municipal issues to national and state issues; the lack of power given to executive officers, the error of modeling local government on the bicameral system of federal government, and the practise of too much interference by state legislatures.

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"AFTER McKINLEY," PINGREE?

W. T. STEAD, the noted editor of the London *Review of Reviews*, is so impressed with the return of Mayor Pingree of Detroit at the head of the poll as governor of Michigan, that he declares that Pingree, of all Republicans, will stand the best chance of being next President after McKinley. To quote (*Review of Reviews*, December):

"Mr. Pingree has long been far and away the most remarkable mayor in the United States, and he, more than any of the notable Republicans, is in sympathy with all that is good and true on the Bryanite platform. The election of Mr. McKinley by the combined forces of the party bosses and the great moneyed monopolists will inevitably produce a reaction; and if the Republican Party has not to be swamped at the polls of 1900, it will have to put in the field a candidate who will be as different as possible from McKinley on the crucial question of subservience to the money power. Now, if all the United States were searched through, they would show no man who would more exactly meet the exigencies of such a position than Governor Pingree. It will be more than three years before the Republican convention has to choose its candidate; but speaking, as I say, from the outsider's point of view, and only taking into account the great issues and the leading tendencies, both political and personal, I see no man on the American horizon who is more likely to occupy the White House in succession to Mr. McKinley than Governor Pingree."

McKinley's plurality in Michigan was about 56,000; Pingree's plurality was some 83,000, in a total poll of 542,000 votes. What ever estimate may be placed upon his Presidential chances, it is noteworthy that no other governor-elect has given the American newspapers so much to talk about as Mr. Pingree. Forecasting his own gubernatorial *régime*, he declares his determination to fight for two-cent railroad fares (lower Michigan); taxation of railroad property like other property; the application of the principles of the interstate commerce law to commerce within the State, to secure to farmers and shippers the advantage of the competition and prevent discriminations; laws to prohibit stock-watering and over-capitalization; enforcement of laws against trusts and monopolies; submission to popular vote of the granting of street railroad and other quasi-public franchises; direct vote of the people in primary elections for the nomination of candidates, instead of conventions or caucuses; repeal of dead-letter statutes on the books of the State.

A number of journals question whether Mr. Pingree can force such legislation through the legislature, which is said to be more or less hostile to him, but there is an immense amount of journalistic commendation of his "conservative" program of reform. The Seattle, Wash., *Post-Intelligencer* says that none of these schemes is revolutionary, "several have already been advocated for a considerable time, and all are in the direction of genuine reform." The New York *Sun* is an exception to the rule, describing the "Hon. Potato Pingree" as "a queer character, in which the shrewd man of business, the impossible social reformer, the unconscious crank, and the unconscionable demagog seem to be united in proportions which it would not be polite to mention."

The Chicago *Journal*, indorsing the proposed submission of franchises to a vote of the people, says:

"No one can say, until it has been tried, how far the referendum would go toward cleansing the wholesale impurity of our American city governments, but certain it is that it would go a long way. Boodle is just thievery of the commonest kind, and Mr. Pingree has had the ordinary good sense to perceive it. There's nothing intricate about it, and its remedy is simple. A pawnbroker will buy a stolen watch from a thief if he thinks he can keep the watch. A corporation will buy a stolen street from a gang of thieving aldermen if the aldermen can deliver the goods. Just so long as the people trust aldermen with streets, just so long will there be temptation to steal them and sell them. The thing to do is for the people to take their property out of the reach of rogues. This can be done by the referendum on city franchises. It isn't necessary the people should waste time and tangle business by voting on every franchise. It is enough that they have the power of voting on them on the demand of a certain number of citizens or on the demand of some official such as an alderman or the mayor. Few bribes would be offered if the bargain were subject to review by the people, and few corrupt jobs would go through. It is perfectly safe to say that such an outrage as the seizure of Rush Street bridge by Baron Yerkes would be impossible if the people had anything to say about it. With all the boodle out of the job what would be the use of running for alderman? The position would have few allurements for the men who have made the council chamber of Chicago a den of thieves.

"Pingree simply recognizes that the people have the right to dispose of their own. They had lost sight of this fact for a long time and he proposes to remind them of it. This is democracy. Pingree believes in democracy and that is the secret of his majority in Michiagn. Chicago needs a Pingree. Not some one to administer a paternal government, but just some one to teach the people they are able to take care of themselves and defend their property from greedy corporations and dishonest, pilfering servants."

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

WE all venerate the Constitution of the United States, but occasionally events remind us that it is not a perfect instrument.—*The Republican, Springfield.*

IT is remarkable how many people make mistakes in casting their ballots. Nearly 5,000 Prohibition votes were polled in the State of Kentucky at the last election.—*The Press, New York.*

THE illiterate foreigner in foreign lands will have to touch up his intellectual faculties or remain abroad. The Lodge bill may fairly be termed an incentive to universal education.—*The Herald, Boston.*

WHENEVER a stock-jobber, railroad-wrecker, or government-bond manipulator finds his interests menaced he unfurls the "Commercial Interests" banner and endeavors to flag Congress.—*The Journal, New York.*

"WHAT does the President want of more bonds?"
"To retire the greenbacks."
"But what does the President want to retire the greenbacks for?"
"So as to issue more bonds, of course."—*The News, Detroit.*

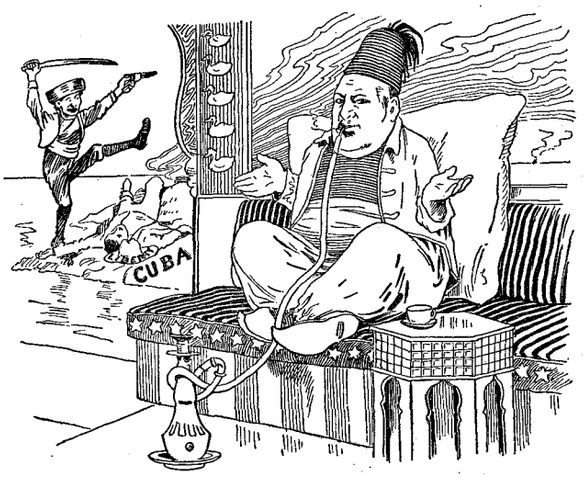
BE careful, Mister Spain,
Don't bring about a bout,
Fer the *Texas* 'll ketch ye
Ef ye don't watch out.
—*The Times, Washington.*

THE POLITICAL ISSUE.

"THERE'S only two real parties," said the man who refuses to believe that the free-silver agitation is over for good. "The old political lines are all gone ter smash."

"You mean, I suppose, to reiterate your familiar claim that the bankers are arrayed against the farmers?"

"Thet's it exactly. It's the ol' question of which kind o' whiskers is a-goin' ter git the best of it, side or chin."—*The Star, Washington.*



JUST WHAT THE SULTAN SAID.
"It isn't my funeral."—*The Dispatch, St. Paul.*

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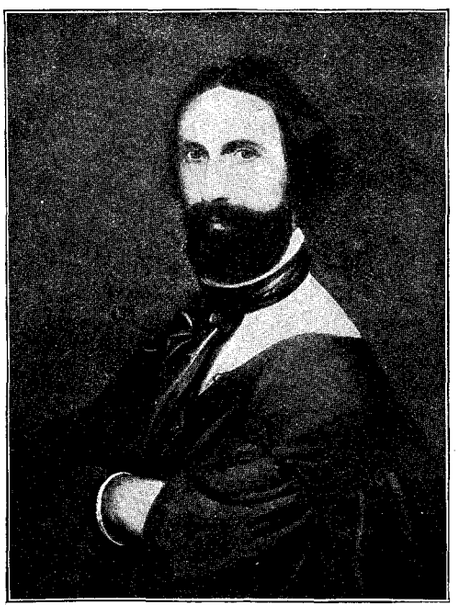
LETTERS AND ART.

THE "CRAZY PAINTER" WIERTZ.

ONE of the sights of Brussels is the Museum of Antoine Joseph Wiertz, containing his own paintings to the number of one hundred and ten. These paintings are characterized by romanticism and eccentricity, and the artist himself is usually spoken of to-day as "the crazy painter." His whole life was devoted to his art and his ambition was colossal. The following



ANTOINE JOSEPH WIERTZ.
(From photograph loaned by the *Art Interchange*.)

sketch of his career appears in *The Art Interchange* from the pen of Edith Heyer:

"Belgium never understood his idealistic nature or untrammeled ways. She could not appreciate the sentiment of this artist, who refused to sell his pictures because he would never again be free; because he wanted his work about him to profit by past errors and improve his style. For the sake of art Wiertz led the life of a recluse, and was regarded by the world as insane. He alienated himself from his fellow men completely. This eccentric genius was born on the 22d of February, 1806, in the quaint little town of Dinant, on the Meuse. In the history of his life we find how as a child he tried to draw, and colored his infantile efforts with the juice of wild berries growing in the woods of Dinant.

"In his boyhood he took up wood-carving, and his first work was a wooden frog, so realistic that it deceived the visitors to his father's shop, who in disgust often asked why the reptile was allowed to remain there, and one man attempted to fling it out of the window. The frog gained fame for the boy Wiertz, and one of Dinant's art patrons came forward and had the lad taught music and drawing. The young genius made rapid strides, and at fourteen was able to teach his master. At this age he produced with the graver's tools some of the best engraved work of his day. Wiertz as a boy had wonderful musical gifts. He played with taste and finish on half a dozen instruments, but his heart was given to art. Rubens became the guiding star of his existence. It seemed as if the ambitions of the whole Wiertz tribe materialized in this youth, and from the day that he was taken to Antwerp to study, his life became a constant striving after this ideal. His self-imposed vows were as much a dedication of his best self as those of a monk.

"His means were barely enough for the necessities of existence; he practised pitiful economies, banishing all indulgences and pleasure from his life. In his poor little attic studio, without fire or lights, his life was spent in conscientious toil. For his work to him was a divine, elevating motive. It opened the gates to a magic world that was soul-stirring. Constant toil in this sordid little den never dimmed his ambitious dreams, and his earnest desire seemed to bring him near the longed-for goal. Six years flew away filled with work and hope, but Wiertz was as poor as ever, for he stubbornly refused to sell his pictures, contending that 'Gold is the murderer of art.'

"To meet the actual demands of life he painted a few portraits, but was too proud to sign his name to pot-boilers. He kept all his work about him, and at his death bequeathed it all to the city of Brussels.

"This artistic soul found its way to the Mecca of art, Rome, and there he painted his masterpiece, a huge canvas called 'The Greeks and Trojans Contending for the Body of Patroclus.' It is a picture full of the din and clash of war. It stirs one's blood; there are the vigorous contestants flushed with victory or with the awful pallor of death stamped on their brows; the ghastly blue-white hues of the dead and dying hold one speechless. His Rubens's influence can be traced in all his weird pictures.

"Wiertz realized in time that the world had no place for him among her chosen great ones, and he gave way to melancholy, and his wild fancies crowded his canvases with all sorts of weird expressions. 'The Revolt of Hell' is a nightmare of grotesque conception. In 1840 he came to Brussels to the studio built for him by the Government, on condition that his works should belong to Belgium and be freely exhibited for all time. This building is known to-day as the Wiertz Museum, and there he worked on till the hand of death arrested his brush when he was fifty-six years old. A life devoted to one purpose, that failed to reach the coveted goal!"

WOMEN IN AMERICAN LITERATURE.

C. DE THIERRY has a French name, but not over-much of French gallantry—at least so far as American women are concerned. Why in the world we American men brag about our women is to him—we assume that the gender in this case is masculine—a profound mystery. We have no "famous women" to speak of, and the biographies that purport to be the lives of such are a "weariness to the flesh"—that is to say, to his flesh. The American woman is vain, self-conscious, and selfish—"the most unconsciously selfish being on the face of the earth." She has no sentiment, marriage is with her simply a contract without spiritual significance, and as soon as she ceases to be a child she becomes a woman, with no intermediate period of young girlhood. Burke could not draw an indictment against a people, but de Thierry finds no difficulty in drawing several indictments against the feminine half of the American people, and *The Contemporary Review* (November) contains them, written, as we are told in the title, "from a colonial point of view." They make good reading for all henpecked husbands and all misogynists and we quote some of the most interesting portions of the article, those pertaining to the place American women occupy in literature. The writer begins with a chuckle over the fact that Maria Mitchell is the only American woman whose name is engraved on the external memorial tablets of the new Boston Public Library, altho English women are represented by five names, namely, George Eliot, Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, Maria Edgeworth, and Mary Somerville, and France by two, namely, George Sand and Mme. de Staël. This despite the fact that every educational advantage open to the American man is open to the American woman, and that when any discrimination is made in a family it is in favor of the girls. Not only has the American woman failed to achieve greatness in literature, but she has failed to inspire it. We quote:

"Let us turn to the national literature. Instead of here making the acquaintance of creations breathing the charm and beauty and intellect of which so much is heard on both sides of the Atlantic, we find them conspicuously absent. Fenimore Cooper, Irving, Bryant, Whittier, Poe, Emerson, Lowell, and even Hawthorne and Longfellow, may have held the same views on the American woman as the most imaginative reporter of the hour; but the

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evidence is all the other way. Whatever else she may have done, she has not inspired the classical literature of her country, and in that respect she is undoubtedly unique in the history of Western peoples. In poetry she is hardly recognized at all. Bryant knew no mistress but Nature. Whittier is more catholic; but with the exception of 'Maud Muller' and 'Mogg Megone,' his lyrics are mostly descriptive of New England scenery, patriotic or dedicatory. Poe's genius wanders in the shady vistas of imagination. Emerson and Lowell both wrote verses to, or on, women, but only in the most general terms. Longfellow, the greatest poet of them all, was not less blind to the artistic merits of his fair compatriots. Evangeline, the Acadian maiden, has all the tenderness, trustfulness, devotion, and patience of a daughter of her people. There is nothing New World about her except her home on the Nova Scotian coast. Elsie, in the 'Golden Legend,' is a German; Hiawatha's bride is, of course, an Indian; and, in that most poetical record of European travel, 'Hyperion,' the heroine, Mary Ashburton, is an Englishwoman. Thus the only creations racy of New England are the demure Priscilla in the 'Courtship of Miles Standish,' and Cecilia in 'Kavanagh.'"

Much the same is true, we are told, of our fiction. Cooper's heroines are either British-born or trained according to Old-World standards. Irving and Poe—in his tales—treat of the American type not at all. Hawthorne's most remarkable work, "The Scarlet Letter," has an Englishwoman for its heroine. His Zenobia, however, in "Blithedale Romance," is "a living, breathing American woman" and "a veritable queen"; but she is frightfully self-conscious and shallow. Of other heroines the writer speaks as follows:

"The works of every [American] writer from Fenimore Cooper to Margaret Deland may be searched in vain for a creation as heroic as the Antigone of Sophocles. Hardness and superficiality, combined with beauty and grace, are the most prominent features of the heroines of American novels. They have 'brains all over them,' but their heads are so manifestly superior to their hearts that they seldom arouse the reader's sympathy, and some of them can never be regarded with anything but dislike. It is a positive relief to turn from them to such natural Old-World types as Judith Hutter or Cora Munro. As a matter of fact, however, few creations of the school founded by Hawthorne have any claims to be remembered at all. Daisy Miller, and perhaps Cecil Shore, are notable exceptions. Why the fault should be laid at the door of the authors is not quite clear—unless they are expected to make bricks without straw. The human nature in their novels is the human nature with which they are familiar. That it is barren of some of the richest elements of romance no one recognizes more clearly than they, and one of its direct results, so far, has been to produce such graceful flights of fancy as 'The Man without a Country,' 'The Lady or the Tiger,' and 'Margery Daw.' It also accounts for the prominence given to the sketch and the short story in American fiction at all stages of its career."

Julian Hawthorne, we are further reminded, has sought his inspiration in Europe, Bret Harte has found his in a phase of life that has passed into history, and Marion Crawford has followed Julian Hawthorne's example. Hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

"It will thus be seen that American women are neither themselves great in literature nor are they the cause of greatness in others. In poetry not one name is worthy to stand on the same plane as Mrs. Browning or Christina Rossetti; in fiction the record is even poorer. They have been distanced even by an English colony, South Africa, which has produced at least one work of genius in the 'Story of an African Farm.' Miss Wilkins writes delightful sketches of New England life, but her method is disastrous to the success of a three-volume novel. Miss Murfree's stories of Tennessee wilds are loaded with analysis to such an extent that it requires an intelligence trained in the school of Mr. Howells and Mr. James to appreciate them. . . . Until the great emotions and passions cease to be the motives of human action with the generality of mankind, minor eccentricities and social distinctions will never take a leading place in art and fiction without a tremendous loss of power. This is painfully evident in the works of Mrs. Deland, who is too much afraid of passion to do herself justice. Of naturalized Americans, Mrs. Hodgson Burnett and Mrs. Barr are the most famous. But they, too, have felt the sterilizing effect of a materialistic democracy. The latter is artistic and convincing only when she fills in her canvas with Scottish scenes; the former has never, in subsequent efforts, equaled the power and simple pathos of her Lancashire tales. Her 'Fair Barbarian' and 'Louisiana' are charming sketches, but they are slight as thistledown compared to 'Surly Tim' and 'That Lass o' Lowrie's.'"

The writer then goes on to show that the stage is as barren of great American actresses and singers as literature of great American women writers.

RISING SCANDINAVIAN AUTHORS.

THE veterans of Scandinavian literature, Björnson, Ibsen, Lie, and others, have already given the world their best, and their fame is penetrating every corner of civilization. But it is not generally known that at the present moment there are at least ten rising young novelists and dramatists of the first rank in the three northern kingdoms and a score of writers of second rank displaying superior abilities. A critical writer in the November *Cosmopolis*, the international review in three languages, gives an interesting sketch of contemporary Scandinavian *belles-lettres*, indicating their main features and introducing the leading personalities. He says, by way of preface:

"The first thing that strikes a superficial observer of contemporary Scandinavian *belles-lettres* is its extraordinary productiveness. The united population of the three northern kingdoms scarcely exceeds ten millions, being consequently less than one fourth the population of France, or one fifth that of the German Empire, yet the number of novels and poems published in Scandinavia is relatively greater than the number published in either of the great Continental countries, and its tendency is to increase. Equally remarkable is the excellent quality of most of the work produced. It is true that much of this young talent, abusing the almost unlimited license conceded to letters in the North, has, too often, run amuck of decency and even sanity; but impudent exuberance and want of balance have ever been the characteristics of young talent, and signs are not wanting of a reaction in favor of good sense and good taste."

The most interesting of the Norwegian young novelists is Arne Garborg, according to *The Cosmopolis* critic, F. Bain. Garborg started out as an uncompromising radical in politics, economics, and literature. He wrote realistic and dark peasant tales, and his great romance, "Bondestudentar," was a blend of psychology and social reform. But his late works have caused his radical friends great uneasiness. He has quarreled with the decadents and materialists and has returned to faith and "sweetness and light." We quote what the writer says about Garborg's famous novels:

"'Trætte Mænd' is obviously inspired by Huyssman's 'En Route,' and arrives at precisely the same conclusion—the utter vanity of life divorced from religion. In form it is the diary of a decadent man of letters, who oscillates perpetually between free love, suicide, and a *mariage de convénance*, till a sheer longing for peace drives him back to Christianity. The naturalistic standpoint is caricatured in the persons of the hero's two friends, the practical Yankee cynic Jonathan, to whom every love-story is simply a phase of the social question; and the scientific cynic, Dr. Kvaale, who regards 'all religiosity' as 'ungratified, overdeveloped, or perverted sexual instinct.' The tone of the book throughout is fiercely iconoclastic. All the author's earlier political, social, and literary ideals are scathed by a ruthless irony worthy of Swift. It seems as if he could not sufficiently revenge himself upon them for having deluded him so long. 'Truth,' he exclaims in one place, with a side-thrust at the naturalists, 'is, on the whole, so filthy a thing that finely spun natures ought to be spared it.' Science is denounced as a systematic 'We don't know,' an excellent guide in things indifferent, but a veritable Dr. Helpless whenever the shoe pinches. Literature is nothing

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but an eternal I, I, I, *my* books, *my* publishers, and in the innermost recess of every author's heart there constantly crouches a 'little gall-sick dwarf.' The hero is consumed by a longing to cast himself at the feet of some one or other, 'a woman, a priest, a god, and howl, roar, confess, be whipped, cursed, damned, and finally folded securely in loving arms like a sick child.' 'Trætte Mænd' is not perhaps a very pleasant book to read, but its rugged power and pathos are irresistible. It fascinates, appals, and leaves haunting memories behind it. The later novel, 'Fred,' also deals with religious subjects. It has well been described as 'a storm-dark story of soul-sickness,' and is indisputably one of the deepest psychological studies the Norwegian literature possesses."

The chief representative of the Scandinavian decadents is Ola Hansson, of Sweden. His early works were lyrics of "melting sweetness clouded by morbid melancholy." Then he wrote shocking tales which caused the press to demand his seclusion in a jail or madhouse. They were foul, hysterical, almost obscene. But of late, the writer says, there is an improvement:

"Hansson's later work is of a somewhat sweeter and saner type. The effeminate, neurotic strain in his character has, luckily, been neutralized by a latent energy inherited, no doubt, from his ancestors, sturdy yeomen of long standing, and inspired to manliness by the comparatively stimulating atmosphere of the Nietzschian philosophy which he has subsequently adopted. The erotomania characteristic of all decadents is, indeed, rarely absent from his writings. Take, for instance, the darkly hideous story of the demoniacal temptress, Huldren, out of whose insatiable arms her victim sinks like a half-withered corpse; or 'Kärlekens Trangmal,' seven pathological studies in female psychophysiology; but the erotomania has gradually been forced into the background to give freer play to the author's distinctive qualities, an extraordinarily deep and subtle power of analysis, an exquisitely nice appreciation of the most fugitive nuances of color and feeling, and a deeply poetical sympathy with nature in her softer moods and more placid aspects. There are scenes in 'Fru Ester Bruce,' perhaps the most pleasing novel Hansson has written, of heartrending pathos and unsurpassable delicacy of touch."

Closely allied to the decadents there is a group of young Danish writers, called the "new romanticists." They have raised the standard of revolt against realism and naturalism. Their leader is Jens Jörgensen. Of him the writer says:

"Powerfully attracted from the first by the new Catholic French school, the so-called Symbolists, Jörgensen in 1893 started a newspaper, *Taarnet* (The Tower), with the express object of combating the materialistic view of life with the composite panoply of literature and religion, and gathered around him a brilliant band of like-minded romantic Paladins, conspicuous among whom were Viggo Stuckenberg, Sophus Clausen, and Sophus Michaelis. The unmistakable ability and splendid audacity of the new school attracted immediate attention, and if these Knights of the Tower have not succeeded in hurling their arch enemy, Brandes, from his critical throne, or in rooting out materialism, they have at least introduced a pleasing variety into Scandinavian *belles-lettres*, and enriched the Danish literature with some of its most exquisite masterpieces.

"Jörgensen's tendency has always been toward Catholicism, a tendency conspicuously observable in his fine collection of poems, entitled, 'Bekjendelse.' It was, therefore, not much of a surprise to his admirers when, quite recently, he was received into the Roman Church. What effect this conversion may have upon his literary disciples remains to be seen."

The leaders of Scandinavian naturalism are Peter Nansen, of Denmark, and Amalia Skram, a Norwegian woman novelist. We quote in regard to the latter:

"The novels of this gifted author are of such overpowering realism that one feels bound to accept them, without question, as absolutely genuine human documents. The best of them are elaborate studies of low life in Bergen, and Zola himself has not painted the squalor, depravity, savagery, and moral ruin resulting from intemperance in darker colors and with so unflinching a hand. There is a sort of brutal grandeur about such a book as 'Hellemyrsfolket,' for instance. Despite its needless villanies and sickening horrors, it is emphatically a great work. Its psychology is equally subtle and profound, its local coloring masterly, and it teaches us more of the reality of life and the misery of half-starved, overworked humanity than a whole library of official statistics could ever do. Nor is it altogether pessimistic in tone. On the rare occasions when the author condescends to pathos (sentimental she never allows herself to be), her pathos is overwhelming, and the ultimately successful conflicts of the terribly handicaped hero and the two girls, Andrea and Petra, against their evil environment casts a ray of cheery light across an otherwise repulsively grim narrative."

Erna Jud-Hanser is another lady realist who carries cynicism to the extremest point possible in literature. Finally, there are two precocious young Norwegian authors who bid fair to be numbered among the greatest names of Scandinavian letters, Vilhelm and Thomas Krag. Vilhelm's predominant tone is a tender, dreamy melancholy, a resigned pessimism, while Thomas's work is pervaded with a deep feeling of nature's mystical power. He is truly Norse and is bound to his wild and barren land.

LITERARY REMINISCENCES OF ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS.

MRS. PHELPS-WARD'S entertaining papers, which have been appearing in the magazines during the year just closed, have been issued in book-form under the name of "Chapters from a Life." The table of contents contains among its subjects the names of many whom the public never seem to tire of hearing about:—Mrs. Stowe, whom she calls "the greatest of American women"; James T. Field, of whom Bryant said—referring to his lectures and writings—that "no one could impress upon the people of this country so well as he the value and importance of the study of English literature"; Longfellow, this tribute to whom Mrs. Ward quotes as the finest she ever heard: "If there is any person in Cambridge or in Boston whom he knows to be in greater need than any other of social kindness, any one obscure, overlooked, unknown, and friendless, that is the person you are sure to find invited to Mr. Longfellow's house"; Whittier, who "never darkened the day or shadowed the heart," and whose love of nature, despite the "deep inward desolation" of his later years, was "as fresh as a lad's to his last hour"; Holmes, who used to speak of Canon Farrar's book, "Eternal Hope," "with an emotion touching to witness and ennobling to remember," whose "tears stirred at the mere mention of the title," and who could not talk about it because it moved him too much; Celia Thaxter and Lucy Larcom, the memories of whom were reproduced in THE LITERARY DIGEST several weeks ago; Phillips Brooks, the "one man in Boston of whom nobody ever saw enough"; and Edward Rowland Sill, the poet "of exquisite performance and of superior promise," "too soon overtaken by death." In addition to these, the first part of the book has some entertaining glimpses of the author's grandfather, Rev. Dr. Moses Stuart, her father, Prof. Austin Phelps, and Rev. Dr. Edwards A. Park, of Andover. Here is a little incident that reveals the nature of the atmosphere which surrounded her girlhood days at Andover:

"One terrible tragedy indeed befel our little 'set'—for we had our sets in Andover as well as they of Newport or New York.

"A high-bred girl of exceptional beauty was furtively kissed one evening by a daring boy (not a native of Andover, I hasten to explain), and the furor which followed this unprecedented enormity it would be impossible to describe to a member of more complicated circles of society. Fancy the reception given such a commonplace at any of our fashionable summer resorts to-day!

"On Andover Hill the event was a moral cataclysm. Andover girls were country girls, but not of rustic (any more than of metropolitan) social training. Which of them would have suffered an Academy boy, walking home with her from a lecture or prayer-meeting, any little privilege which he might not have taken in her father's house and with her mother's knowledge? I

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never knew one. The case of which I speak was historic, and, as far as I ever knew, unique, and was that of a victim, not an offender.

"The little beauty to whom this atrocity happened cried all night and all the next day; she was reported not to have stopped crying for twenty-six hours. Her pretty face grew wan and haggard. She was too ill to go to her lessons.

"The teachers—to whom she had promptly related the circumstances—condoled with her; the entire school vowed to avenge her; we were a score of as disturbed and indignant girls as ever wept over woman's wrongs or scorned a man's depravity.

"Yet, for aught I know to the contrary, this abandoned young man may have grown up to be a virtuous member of society, possibly even an exemplary husband and father. I have never been able to trace his history; probably the moral repulsion was too great."

Perhaps the most interesting portion of the book relating to the author herself is that descriptive of the circumstances attending the writing and publication of "The Gates Ajar," her greatest popular success. This book, it will be remembered, presented the author's views of a future life—views rather startling to the orthodoxy of the period, and more than "passing strange" as coming from the daughter of one of the severest of theologians and granddaughter of a conservative of conservatives. She was about twenty years old when the book was written. It was just after the Civil War, and her heart "ached for the sorrowing women, the patient, limited, loving women, who had lost their all." "How the book grew," she writes, "who can say? More of nature than of purpose, surely. It moved like a tear or a sigh or a prayer. In a sense, I scarcely knew that I wrote it." It was much translated, much answered, much criticized. There were "Gates-Ajar" tippets, collars, funeral pieces, songs, cigars, and patent medicines. It is even told that a Westerner while in Boston furtively inquired of a bartender if there was a new drink called "Gates Ajar." We quote from her own account of the book and its purposes:

"Into that great world of wo my little book stole forth, trembling. So far as I can remember having had any 'object' at all in its creation, I wished to say something that would comfort some few—I did not at all think about comforting many, not daring to suppose that incredible privilege possible—of the women whose misery crowded the land. The smoke of their torment ascended, and the sky was blackened by it. I do not think I thought so much about the suffering of men—the fathers, the brothers, the sons—bereft; but the women—the helpless, outnumbering, unconsulted women; they whom war trampled down, without a choice or protest; the patient, limited, domestic women, who thought little, but loved much, and, loving, had lost all—to them I would have spoken.

"For it came to seem to me, as I pondered these things in my own heart, that even the best and kindest forms of our prevailing beliefs had nothing to say to an afflicted woman that could help her much. Creeds and commentaries and sermons were made by men. What tenderest of men knows how to comfort his own daughter when her heart is broken? What can the doctrines do for the desolated by death? They were chains of rusty iron, eating into raw hearts. The prayer of the preacher was not much better; it sounded like the language of an unknown race to a despairing girl. Listen to the hymn. It falls like icicles on the snow. Or, if it happen to be one of the old genuine outcries of the church, sprung from real human anguish or hope, it maddens the listener, and she flees from it, too sore a thing to bear the touch of holy music.

"At this time, be it said, I had no interest at all in any especial movement for the peculiar needs of woman as a class. I was reared in circles which did not concern themselves with those whom we should probably have called agitators. I was taught the old idea of womanhood, in the old way, and had not to any important extent begun to resent them.

"Perhaps I am wrong here. Individually, I may have begun to recoil from them, but only in a purely selfish, personal way, beyond which I had evolved neither theory nor conscience, much less the smallest tendency toward sympathy with any public movement of the question.

"In the course of two or three years spent in exceptional solitude, I had read a great deal in the direction of my ruling thoughts and feeling, and came to the writing of my little book, not ignorant of what had been written for and by the mourning. The result of this reading, of course, went into the book and seemed to me at the time by far the most useful part of it.

"'The Gates Ajar' was attacked by the press. In fact, it was virulently bitten. The reviews of the book, some of them, reached the point of hydrophobia. Others were found to be in a milder pathological condition. Still others were gentle or even friendly enough. Religious papers waged war across that girl's notions of the life to come as if she had been an evil spirit let loose upon accepted theology for the destruction of the world. The secular press was scarcely less disturbed about the matter; which it treated, however, with the more amused good humor of a man of the world puzzled by a religious disagreement.

"It was an irreverent book—it was a devout book. It was a strong book—it was a weak book. It was a religious book—it was an immoral book. (I have forgotten just why; in fact, I think I never knew.) It was a good book—it was a bad book. It was calculated to comfort the comfortless—it was calculated to lead the impressionable astray. It was an accession to Christian literature—it was a disgrace to the religious antecedents of the author, and so on, and so forth.

"At first, when some of these reviews fell in my way, I read them, knowing no better; but very soon learned to let them alone. The kind notices, while they gave me a sort of courage which by temperament possibly I needed more than all young writers may, overwhelmed me by a sense of my own inadequacy to be a teacher of the most solemn truths on any such scale as that toward which events seemed to be pointing. The unfair notices put me in a tremor of distress. The brutal ones affected me like a blow in the face from the fist of a ruffian.

"None of them, that I can remember, ever helped me in any sense whatever to do better work. I quickly came to the conclusion that I was not adapted to reading the views of the press about my own writing. I made a vow to let them alone, and from that day to this I have kept it."

A NEW DISCOVERY IN MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE.

ONE of the most persistent assumptions of the architectural theorist is that proportion in architecture is a question merely of rule-and-compass. Given the nave of a church, then the arches should all have the same span, the pillars the same height, and—*voilà!* The circumstance that more than one of the most lovely and impressive churches of the Middle Age were obviously irregular has hitherto been ascribed (most illogically) to the incompetence of the builders, or to the accident of materials "running short" in the course of construction. The idea that such an aberration from mathematical accuracy might have been the result of a deliberate artistic intention never occurred to anybody except to be scouted as absurd. Even Mr. Ruskin, with all his insight and eloquence, has in great part misapprehended them.

In this, as in so many other matters just now, opinion seems on the brink of reconstruction. Mr. William H. Goodyear, who has devoted himself to this question for many years, recently visited Italy, and, assisted by a survey authorized and maintained by the Brooklyn Institute, has made elaborate measurements of a large number of churches there, which make one wonder if any medieval church was built on equidistant principles. The results of his investigations are now in course of publication in *The Architectural Record*, illustrated with numerous plans, sections, and photographs, that are of great interest, not merely to architects, to whom indeed they are of scarcely measurable importance, but to every one who has ever visited Italy or can appreciate the esthetics of architecture.

Mr. Goodyear schedules the "refinements," as he calls these deviations from geometrical system, into thirteen distinct classes

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(*Architectural Record*, September 30). They are all of singular interest as proving beyond question that, so far from adhering to a cut-and-dried mathematical plan, and so far from being "incompetent," these Italian builders of the Middle Age handled these masses of masonry and brickwork with an artistry as truly plastic as that with which a sculptor handles his clay, and as a landscape painter handles his paint. In a word, they built for effect, swinging walls "out of plumb" to make them more impressive, and deliberately "faking"—the word is vulgar, perhaps, but it expresses the process—the perspectives of their naves in order to strike the beholder with a more profound idea of space than could possibly result from perfect equality of detail.

This treatment of perspectives is the most typical and striking of the "refinements." It consists:

"(1) . . . In increasing the size of the arches near the main entrance of the church and diminishing either space, or height, or both, in the direction toward the choir, thereby giving to the building an effect of greater dimension. The eye is disposed to take a large bay near at hand as the standard of size for all the others. Over thirty different churches in Italy can be specified for this phenomenon. . . . (2) In a refinement analogous to the last, but applied to the second of the two transverse arches which span the nave of a church at the junction with the transept. By dropping this second arch below the level of the first a considerable increase of perspective is obtained. There are good cases of this in the cathedrals of Siena (drop of five feet), Piacenza (drop of four feet), and Pisa (drop of three feet), and in Santa Maria Novelle at Florence (drop of two feet). There are no extant publications of these facts. . . . (3) In a pavement sloping upward toward the choir, nearly always with arches and capitals brought down to the horizontal level, and sometimes with capitals and arches brought below the horizontal level. The effect in either case is one of perspective illusion. I can specify eighty-five cases of this phenomenon in Italian churches. The slope varies from three or four inches to over three feet. The church of Santa Maria Ara Cœli at Rome, the Capella Palatina at Palermo, the cathedrals of Siena and Orvieto are among the list. . . . (4) In converging the walls of the church or the piers and walls of the nave in the direction of the choir. Five cases are known to me in Italy. None have been previously noted by publications, even in Italy, but . . . the cathedral at Poitiers (is) mentioned by Ferguson. The maximum case of convergence is in San Stefan at Venice, whose walls narrow in toward the choir twenty-three feet in a length of one hundred and thirty-three feet."

We now quote from the second article in the current (October-December) number of *The Record:*

"In the cathedral at Siena there is a very ingenious device to exaggerate the length of the church and the distance of the choir. Of the two large arches which span the nave under the dome, the second is five feet lower than the first. The device is only detected by comparing the two arches in question, when one is under the dome, and this can only be done with some difficulty. . . . It is impossible to evade the illusion from any standpoint taken in the nave. . . .

"There is no phenomenon so widespread in Italy as that of the rising pavement. It can be dated to the fifth century in St. Sabina at Rome, and is probably related to the already known cases in Egyptian temples, in which cases it has been ascribed to a purpose of perspective illusion by Maspero, by Poole, and by Rawlinson. . . . In the Italian churches the eye tends to translate a part of the rising slope into a downward slope of the arches according to a well-known law of optical illusion, by which the eye tends to average between any two lines or surfaces a deviation from the actual normal, which really holds only for one of them. This illusion offers an additional reason for the oversight of this phenomenon. The optical transfer minimizes a part of the lower slope, and both convergences are set down to perspective. . . . I have found it impossible to correct the impression that the arches drop toward the rise of the pavement, when looking across the nave of a church, and actual measurements have been necessary in many cases to correct this impression. . . . A rise of one foot in four bays was overlooked by both my companions in the first Genoa church which we examined. Some fellow travelers did not notice a rise of a foot and ten inches in the Genoa cathedral. I spent the best part of a day in St. Francis at Assisi without noticing a slope of one foot and did not discover it until a second visit. A rise of three feet in eighty-one feet, was overlooked by an artist friend at Ravello. The astonishing fact about this rise is the frequency of its appearance in all degrees of pitch between three inches and over three feet for the length of the church. The wide diffusion forbids any local explanation, and the uniformity of direction as regards the choir can have only one meaning."

The "Master-Singers" in Old Nuremberg.—Nuremberg during the Middle Ages, the quaint old town of Hans Sachs and Albrecht Dürer of the Minnesingers and the Meistersingers, is the subject of an article by George Willis Bardwell, in *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly*. This writer describes the ancient musical association (the Meistersingers) in these words:

"The Society of the Master-Singers was organized on the plan of a guild, and its membership included people of nearly every calling. The richest merchant and the poorest handicraftsman met here on common ground. A president governed the meetings, and the other officers were a box-master, or treasurer; a key-master, in charge of the properties; a mark-master, critic of the singing; and a crown-master, custodian of the prize-chain and other jewels of the order, and who awarded the prize and crowned the successful competitor. The meetings were attended by the members, that is, the master-singers, poets, and school friends and scholars, and on some occasions by outsiders—sometimes persons of nobility and distinction. . . . That the music and verse of the songs did not show greater improvement and advancement in the three hundred years during which the Nuremberg organization continued to exist, is due to the swathing-bands of iron rules with which they sought to protect it in its infancy and which they never removed.

"The Tabulatur, or list of rules governing the composition and singing of a master-song, specified the faults to be avoided and the penalties imposed in each case. These faults were thirty-three in number, and included all injurious thoughts—that is, irreligious in tendency or low in character—which would close to the offender the doors of the school. Forbidden were all false names and bad Latin, nor must that language be used without good occasion. No syllable might be prolonged incorrectly or wrongly accented, such faults being counted according to the number of syllables wrong. Rimes must be good and capable of being sung, and no words changed or shortened, or conjunctions left out. To change a vowel, or prolong or compound a word wrongly for the sake of the rime or meter was forbidden, and it was considered a fault during the singing of a song to stop or take breath at a wrong place, or to render incorrectly or vary the tune. No line of a verse might have in it more than thirteen syllables, and the meaning and intention of the composer must always be clear."

The Battle for Decency in Literature.—"Richard Watson Gilder, editor of *The Century Magazine*, thinks this battle is just now at its height. In an article in *The Independent* on "Editing" he speaks of the editor's duty to take part in the battle, and he pays his respects to the "realists" in the following terms:

"'Reality' is a word to conjure with; any one who raises a 'blue pencil' against reality is in peril of losing his literary standing. The editor is prone to level things down; to object to the novel and original; he may be a Philistine; he may even be touched with hypocrisy. But if there is any greater humbug and hypocrisy than 'realism' can be I do not know what it is. Take, for instance, the single detail of profanity in the 'conversations' of a story. Did any one who has ever heard the thing in all its luxurious and picturesque reality ever see it 'really' reported? Is there a living realist who would be willing to put down in cold black and white to the extent of a foolscap page the habitual language of certain types with which he deals in fiction? and if he did so, would he be willing to keep that piece of paper over-night even under lock and key? The unthinkable blasphemy, the rank and violent vulgarity, they are as real as many other things outside of art. Say what you will, there is no realist who does not draw the line somewhere; and that line is at least as debatable as the one between Venezuela and British Guiana."

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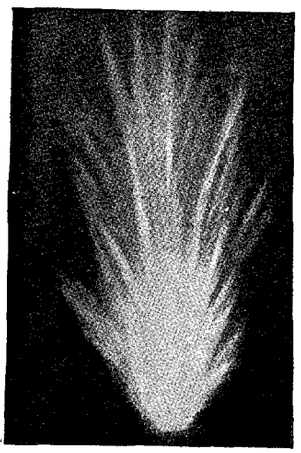
SCIENCE.

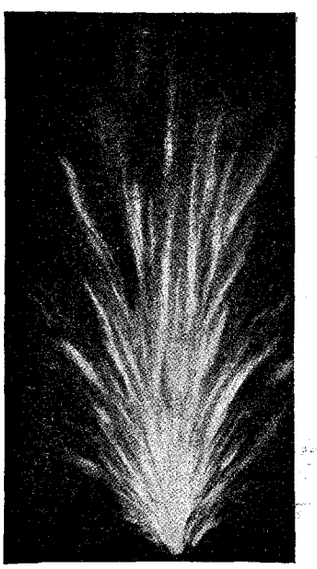
PHOTOGRAPHY OF EXPLOSIONS.

IT is not very long since the camera was regarded chiefly as a toy or as a device with which to take portraits. Now it occupies an important place among scientific apparatus. Not long ago we told how it is used as an aid to the surveyor, and we now translate from *Der Stein der Weisen* (Vienna, January) an account of how it has assisted in determining which explosives are the safest for use in mining operations. Says the article in question:

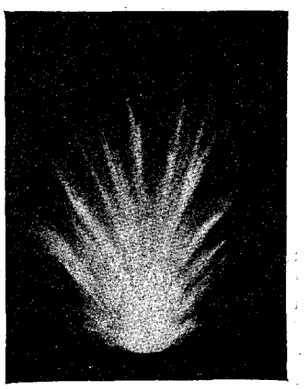


GELATIN-DYNAMITE, 100 GRAMMES (3½ OUNCES), ON THE GROUND.

GUN-COTTON, 100 GRAMMES.



DYNAMITE, 100 GRAMMES.



ROBURITE, 100 GRAMMES.

"The manifold dangers that the miner undergoes in bringing his ore from the bowels of the earth have been known and feared as long as mining has been practised. When the methods of getting out the ore were primitive, the means of protection against common accidents were insufficient, whether these were due to the inrush of water or the explosion of gas, and catastrophes were correspondingly terrible. But even now, when the invention of the Davy safety-lamp and of other ingenious illuminating devices on the same principle has reduced the number of mining casualties, it can not be denied that the number of victims of such lamentable occurrences is still very large. The opening of a lamp in a gallery filled with fire-damp or other gases, or the breaking of one in such a place, brings the flame into direct contact with the gas, and an explosion follows, with the accustomed fatal consequences. Besides the inflammable gases, there are also irrespirable ones, against which, of course, the safety-lamp furnishes no protection. This evil has, however, been fought by the aid of ingenious systems of ventilation, and accidents due to it have very much decreased in number. . . .

"The endless strife of the human mind to vanquish natural difficulties has led to the employment of explosives, in order to deal as effectively as possible with great masses of material. It can not be denied that with the introduction of these methods accidents have become more rather than less numerous. In the widening of the galleries by cutting away the side walls, explosives have been used freely. The commonest gas met with in mining is methane (C_4H_4) mixed with smaller proportions of ethylene (C_2H_4), and often condensed in the cavities under such high pressure that the gases when liberated rush out with great force, even displacing rock that lies in the way. To this is added the effect of coal-dust, which fills the adjacent air with its minute particles. By means of ventilating openings this is removed and the air is as far as possible freed from its dangerous elements. Efforts to lessen the danger of accident from explosions in pits where there is fire-damp are almost as old as the methods themselves. In Germany and Austria especially these efforts have led to noteworthy results, and the ignition of masses of gas by means of the flame of explosions is now, so far as possible, avoided. Commonly in large mining operations the blasts are set off by making an electric contact from a central station."

As regards the different kinds of explosives, we are told that some are more safe than others in mining operations. An interesting photographic study of their effects has just been made by a German expert, Herr Siersch, with results that are presented herewith. The writer of the article from which we are quoting tells us, to begin with, that the chief object of the study was to discover the relative spread of the flame in the various cases, the safety of an explosive being the greater as the flame is smaller, and *vice versa*. Says he:

"The accompanying pictures are reproductions of such photographs. The sharp boundaries of the flame may be clearly seen on each, and they illustrate very well the certainty of photographic methods in a case of this kind. An extension of the method would without doubt lead to a better understanding of the nature of the different explosives. . . . The photographs of Director Siersch show the characteristic form of the explosion-flame of each substance with remarkable clearness. With common gelatin-dynamite, for instance, the flame is radically different from that of roburite or that of progressite. . . . The pictures also give views from different sides of the exploding cartridge, which of course differ from one another. Without any doubt the pictures show that the modern safety-explosives give a far smaller flame than, for instance, the old gelatin-dynamite, whose flame is large and spreads out in all directions; the safest explosives have in every case the smallest flame.

"It is quite evident that for the correctness and value of the pictures, and in order that they might properly be compared, it was necessary to use in each case exactly the same weight of explosive. Finally, the photographic plates had to be all comparable, that is, they were all of the same kind and equally sensitive. This condition being fulfilled, the kind of plate used was of course of minor consequence."

The article closes with the hope that further researches in the same direction may establish still more firmly the value of these contributions to our knowledge of explosives that have been made by Herr Siersch with the aid of his camera.—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

"A GERMAN court," says *The Electrical Review*, "has decided that electricity can not be stolen. A man was arrested on the charge of having stolen several thousand amperes of current by tapping a light company's mains and using it to run a motor. The court, on appeal, ruled that 'only a movable material object' could be stolen, which electricity was not, and therefore the man was acquitted."

"PROFESSOR ATKINSON has discovered near Cornell University a 'plant atoll,' so called from its similarity in some respects to a coral atoll," says *The Scientific American*. "Only two plant atolls had previously been known. This atoll consists of a ring of growing shrubs floating in a pond, enclosing a circle of water, and surrounded by water. The matted roots hold sufficient decayed vegetable matter to nourish the plants, and as more dead plants and leaves are accumulated year by year the ring is in process of becoming anchored to the bottom of the pond, or, in other words, of forming a ring of earth out in the middle of the pond. The origin of these curious botanical freaks can only be guessed at."

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WHAT COMPRESSED AIR CAN DO.

TAKING as his text a brief mention of the trial of compressed-air motors on street railways in the upper part of New York city, Carl Snyder tells us in *Harper's Weekly* of the important part that this agent has long been playing in our lives, and of the still more important part that it is destined to play in the future. Says Mr. Snyder:

"The remarkable powers of this force have been largely lost sight of in our modern flood of marvels. If, a hundred years ago, Franklin had made announcement of a way to bottle up the ambient atmosphere in steel flasks, or flasks of any sort, and to tuck these in obscure corners, and use the power resident in them for many and divers conveniences, there is hardly room for doubt that his discovery would have been regarded in that day every whit as extraordinary as his feat of drawing lightning from the clouds. And there are those of competent judgment who believe that if a tithe of the inventive and mechanical genius that has been employed in the development of electricity had been diverted to the perfection of appliances for the use of compressed air, the present relation of these two novel aids of industry would be very different, if not reversed. But electricity was mantled with the glamour of the unknown; for a long time there seemed no limit to its capabilities; it was being applied everywhere and in the most surprising variety of ways; and, in the furor it created, compressed air found little favor beside its more brilliant rival."

Some of the things that compressed air is already doing for us are thus cataloged:

"The Westinghouse air-brake, and the compressed-air drill that is to be seen almost any day making excavations for buildings and the like, have long ceased to be regarded as novelties. But it is different when we learn that this same force is now used to start cars, and even to run them, and that this same air-drill, working in the mine, has literally added hundreds of millions to the available mineral wealth of the world. The enormous increase in the production of gold, as well as of silver, coal, and iron, copper, and other metals, has in no small part been due to this convenient tool. Further, it has been the principal agent in the construction of Chicago's great drainage canal, in many respects one of the most wonderful enterprises of the day.

"Then, again, we are all of us aware of the use of compressed air in the Zalinski dynamite-gun, which is able to hurl a charge of explosive a mile and a half, sufficient to convert a whole regiment into unrecognizable pulp. It is another matter to learn of this same force cleaning carpets, dusting cushions, and painting cars and barns. And as we go a little further, we find this protean force operating block-signals on our railroads, and steering ships, running clocks, and furnishing cold air for refrigerators, loading guns and handling projectiles on our men-of-war, propelling sewing-machines, doing all sorts of hoisting work, driving lathes and printing-presses, copying letters, and running summer fans. In Australia it is shearing sheep; in Kansas City beeves are slaughtered and the meat dressed mainly with compressed air. It is an excellent pump, especially for deep wells, and in particular for chemicals. With the same power you may dump a whole train of coal or dirt cars by the pressure of your thumb. It is carving beautiful statuary, and employed in all sorts of stone-work; it makes a good dredge; it raises and lowers railroad gates; it is a valuable agent in the sugar-refinery and in the making of asphalt and rubber, and still again in the delicate manufacture of fine silk. In the coal-mines it is running locomotives, bringing oxygen and life to the exhausted operative, and banishing the fear of deadly explosions. In England a hundred and fifty miles of pneumatic-tubing facilitates the rapid transfer of mails, and the same system is in use in Philadelphia, and just recently between New York and Brooklyn."

But all this is as nothing compared to the work that it is to do for us in the future, if we are to believe Mr. Snyder's somewhat sanguine predictions. He says:

"When it is generated in large central stations, and distributed over the city in the same way that gas and water and electricity are now distributed, you may expect, madam, that it will clean house for you—beat your carpets and clean your walls—and take a general hand in your household affairs. It will pick you up and set you down from floor to floor. It will be waiting for you at your door, and whisk you to the shopping districts. It may treadle the sewing-machine, agitate the dish-washer, and smash your costliest china with all the dexterity and *sang-froid* of your most accomplished handmaiden. All this and much more it may do, if we are to believe some of those who are given to peering into the to-morrow of things. These tell us that even now compressed air is an equal-footed rival of electricity, and that while the latter has been thrusting the steam-engine from the field, compressed air has entered the lists against this latest knight of industry. . . .

"The general use of the new power will come only with the advent of large central distributing-stations, from which it can be had as freely as is gas or water now. While in a sense it is a rival of electricity, yet it is not impossible that it will soon become a yokemate rather. The alternating electrical current may be employed to transmit cheap power long distances, as from Niagara and the Pennsylvania culm-banks, and this power converted into compressed air at the point of consumption—electricity being probably the best agent for distance transmission, and compressed air the most mobile form of power for immediate use. Even this is mere conjecture, however, since there is at least one engineering genius—a man of remarkable achievement at that—who has distinctly in view the compression of air at great water-powers like Niagara, conveyance by pipe-lines, at enormous pressure, so far as New York or Philadelphia, and delivery at prices with which electricity can not compete. But whether as yokemates or rivals, it must be clear to the dullest imagination that present conditions are but a stage, and that we are but on a threshold of the day when these two forces, harnessed and trained, will, from their cheapness and availability, and in their infinite application, lift a considerable share of the burden of physical toil from the shoulders of the race."

A DOLL WITH A MEMORY.

SOME time ago we published in this department of THE LITERARY DIGEST extracts from an article in which the behavior of inanimate objects in certain circumstances was compared with the brain-function in organic beings known as memory. The materialist is of course at liberty to infer that the latter may be a purely mechanical process, but however this may be, the analogy, even if it be nothing more, is certainly an interesting one. For instance, we know that the behavior of a bit of elastic metal, if we bend or twist it, often depends not only on present conditions, but also on whether it has ever been bent or twisted before, and on the amount of such previous distortion. Hence it may be said to "remember" what has been done to it. In like manner a Leyden jar "remembers," at least for a time, whether it has ever been charged with electricity before, and how great the charge was; and a magnet recollects whether it has ever possessed magnetism in a different direction and of a different amount from that with which it is at present endowed. In the case of the magnet, this mechanical "memory" has been named "hysteresis," and the word has been extended by some writers to cover all cases of the kind. In an interesting paper in *The Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Prof. Reginald A. Fessenden tells us how we might use this principle to construct a doll that should "remember" that its hand had been burned. This curious feat he would accomplish—theoretically, at least, for it does not appear that any such doll has actually been made—in the following way:

"Suppose that we took two manikins, and by ordinary mechanical contrivances—say with the aid of a device worked by the expansion of a heated fluid—constructed one of them so that, on bringing it up to a lighted candle, it would thrust its hand into the flame, and when the hand became heated the manikin would withdraw it, the action depending upon the elasticity of a wire spring which we may suppose to be placed in its head. So far, the toy is simply an automaton. It is influenced entirely by circumstances. Bring it to the candle a thousand times, and it will still thrust its hand in the flame. Suppose we now unscrew the head and screw on another one in which the spring is made of a

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metal showing elastic hysteresis very markedly. Now, on bringing it to the candle, it will put its hand in the flame as it did before, and will bring it out again; but now there is a difference. The wire has its atoms arranged differently, and so the future action of that spring will no longer be dependent merely upon its circumstances. Another factor enters in, that is, the past history of the spring, and the action of the manikin will now be due to the resultant of the two. So that by taking advantage mechanically of the hysteresis of the spring, we may, tho using the same mechanism in the body part of the manikin, have two entirely separate sets of acts. So with our device. Suppose the second head is screwed on; bringing it up to the candle as mentioned before, the hand is thrust in and withdrawn. Bring it up a second time; instead of the act being repeated, the hand is now withdrawn; and no matter how many times the flame is placed near it, the hand always withdraws. If, however, the head be left alone for a few months; then, on bringing the candle near, the hand will be thrust in it again; the manikin has temporarily lost its memory, but, the impression being again renewed, it now once more avoids the flame."

RECENT WORK ON THE X RAYS.

ALTHO popular curiosity regarding the X rays seems to have largely subsided, they have lost none of their interest for scientific men, and investigators are still diligently at work upon them on all sides. The results of their labors may be briefly summed up by saying that the apparatus for the production and

SCIAGRAPH OF HEAD BY PROFESSOR GOODSPEED.
(From photograph loaned to THE LITERARY DIGEST by Prof. Arthur W. Goodspeed.)

Nasal bones appear like eyelashes. The cervical vertebræ are distinguishable in the original, but barely so in the half-tone. Fillings are located.

use of the rays has been greatly improved and that hosts of new facts about them have been brought out; but we can not be said really to know much more of their nature than when Röntgen, nearly a year ago, made his remarkable announcement to his coworkers at Würzburg. The Newton who is to coordinate the mass of facts that we possess and frame a simple, all-embracing theory of them has not yet arisen. He may not appear for many years, for Newtons are not born every day. Hence a treatise on the X rays must be largely a recital or catalog of isolated discoveries, without much attempt to connect them, and this is the form that Edward P. Thompson has very wisely given his work entitled "Röntgen Rays, and Phenomena of the Anode and Cathode." A system of cross-references, however, binds together the parts as closely as our present knowledge permits, and in a concluding chapter by Prof. William A. Anthony the state of our theoretical knowledge of the rays is well summed up. Letting the accompanying shadowgraph of the human head speak for the great advance in the mechanical side of the subject, we quote a few paragraphs from Professor Anthony's chapter. He says:

"It seems to be settled beyond question that the origin of the Röntgen rays is the fluorescent spot in the discharge-tube. The evidence seems overwhelming that, within the tube, the phenomena are the result of streams of electrified particles of the residual matter, shot off from the cathode in straight lines perpendicular to its surface. This was Crookes's original theory, and it seems to have stood well the test of scientific criticism. These flying particles, falling upon anything in their path, give rise to X rays. . . .

"Nearly all experimenters agree in locating the origin of the X rays at this bombarded spot. The energy here undergoes a transformation, and the X rays represent one of the forms of energy developed.

"What are the characteristics of this particular form of radiant energy?

"It causes certain salts to fluoresce, and it affects the photographic plate. In these respects, it is like the short wave-length radiations from a luminous source. It is, however, totally unlike these in its power of penetrating numerous substances entirely opaque to light, such as wood, paper, hard rubber, flesh, etc. In passing through hard rubber and some other opaque insulators, X rays are like the long wave-length radiations from heated bodies; but X rays penetrate many substances that are opaque to these long wave-length radiations, and they are especially distinguished from all forms of radiant energy previously recognized, in their relative penetrating power for flesh and bones, which makes it possible to obtain the remarkable shadow pictures which have become within three or four months so familiar to all the world.

"But these phenomena, altho they serve to distinguish the X rays from all other forms of radiant energy, do not furnish any clew to the nature of the X rays themselves.

"In attempting to formulate a theory of X rays, the idea that first naturally presents itself is that they are due to some form of wave motion.

"The characteristics of wave motion are diffraction and interference phenomena. So far, no positive evidences of diffraction, nor interference, have been recognized. . . .

"The next supposition naturally is, that the phenomena are due to streams of particles. It has been suggested that the rays may be streams of *material* particles, but this theory can not be maintained in view of the fact that the rays proceed, without hindrance, through the highest vacuum. Neither is it consistent with the high velocity of propagation. Molecules of gas could not be propelled *through air* with any such velocity or to any such distance as X rays are propagated. Tesla has claimed that the residual gases are driven out through the glass of the vacuum bulb by the high potential that he employs. This has not been confirmed by other experimenters. . . . The rays may be ether streams, perhaps in the form of moving vortices, but of such streams we have no independent knowledge, and can only determine by mathematical analysis what their characteristics should be. They would not suffer refraction, and would not produce interference nor diffraction phenomena. Whether they would *do* what the X rays do, go through the flesh and not through bone, through wood and not through metal, excite fluorescence or affect the photographic plate, can not be said. There is evidence that there are at least two kinds of X rays, differing in penetrating power, tho perhaps not differing in other respects.

"X rays have their origin only in electrical discharges in high vacua. They are absent from sunlight and from light of the electric arc, and other sources of artificial illumination."

As may be seen from these extracts, Professor Anthony considers that the weight of proof is against any wave-theory of the X rays, but he declines to champion any of the rival theories, and, in fact, in his concluding paragraphs he quotes some recent French experiments that strongly support the wave-theory. Some of the highest modern authorities, it should be said, consider it probable that the X rays are nothing but light rays, tho

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of such extremely short wave-length as not only to be invisible but also to present all those differences from ordinary light that have been noted by obervers. In view of this decided disagreement of the learned doctors the ordinary reader will do well to suspend judgment.

AN EMINENT AMERICAN ASTRONOMER.

BENJAMIN APTHORP GOULD, whose death was briefly noticed in a recent issue as having taken place in Cambridge, Mass., on November 27, was a man whose eminence, tho acknowledged by his fellow workers in all countries, was not evidenced to the general public. He wrote no popular accounts of his discoveries, he never testified as an expert witness, and he invented no practical machine that came into general use. These are the chief ways in which popular celebrity is achieved by scientific men. They are all legitimate, yet eminence in science depends on none of them. Gould's career proves this, yet many who read this will perhaps see his name for the first time. From *The Scientific American* (December 12) we quote the following brief account of his life and work:

DR. BENJAMIN A. GOULD.

"He was born in Boston on Sepember 27, 1824. His father was Benjamin Apthorp Gould, famous as an educator. The son prepared for college at the Boston Latin School and graduated from Harvard in 1844. For a year he taught at the Roxbury Latin School, and then resigned to continue his studies in Europe. Astronomy was his favorite study. He followed this under Carl F. Gauss, in Goettingen, and in 1848 he got the degree of Ph.S. Later he studied under François Arago, in Paris, and he formed the acquaintance of the most noted scientists of the day. When he returned to the United States he started an astronomical journal. He continued the publication of this for twelve years, when he married Mary Apthorp Quincy. While he was an editor Mr. Gould did his first work for the Government. In 1851 he took charge of the longitudinal operations of the Coast Survey. He was one of the first to use the telegraph in determining differences in longitude. In 1855 he organized the Dudley Observatory at Albany, and then it was that the normal clock, protected from atmospheric variations and furnished with barometric compensations, was first used.

"In 1866 he established in Valentia, Ireland, the station from which the difference in longitude between Europe and America was ascertained, and he connected the two continents by precise observations. These were the first determinations of transatlantic longitude by telegraph, and were the means of establishing a connected series of longitude measurements from the Ural Mountains to New Orleans. In 1868 he organized the National Observatory of the Argentine Republic in Cordoba. His work there included the mapping of a large portion of the southern heavens. His work, 'Uranometry of the Southern Heavens,' is accepted today as the final authority for the southern hemisphere. In 1885, when he returned to the United States, Professor Gould reestablished his astronomical paper. In addition to his astronomical work Professor Gould wrote for the Government a work containing the result of his observations on 30,000 men from the point of view of statistical anthropology. He was a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of London, of the French Academy of Science, of the Academy of St. Petersburg, of the American Academy of Science, and other similar societies."

Why Physicians Should Shave.—"It may be claimed by some," writes Dr. W. A. Hockemeyer to *The Medical Brief*, December, "that the beard is provided by nature, and should be allowed to remain. So it may be with the layman, but when with the faculty it might prove a serious means of contagion, it were better that no chances should be taken. In listening to the action of the heart, or in making other examinations, the face of the examiner must necessarily come into direct contact with the person or clothing of the patient, and a bearded face would be much more liable to be affected thereby than the cleanly shaven skin. Dr. Marion Sims was under the impression that disease had often been conveyed by this means, and was always a firm believer that the less the face was encumbered the better it was for both the doctor and patient. There is, beyond all that, this fact which can not but be generally admitted: the perspiration of summer and the frosted breath of winter, or the dampness from rain in all seasons, are not pleasant things for a doctor to carry into a sick-room. In winter he may divest himself of his overcoat and hat in the hall, but the beard, with the effects of the outside atmosphere, can not be so easily laid aside, and oftentimes, especially if the call be a hurried one, the patient may become nauseatedly aware that the doctor was interrupted in the enjoyment of his pipe."

Woman's Inferior Sensitiveness to Pain.—"Dr. Ottolenghi reports," says *The Medical Record*, December 12, "the tests made with Edelmann's faradimeter of the sensitiveness to pain and the endurance of pain in six hundred and eighty-two women. He finds that women are less sensitive to pain than men, and that this sensitiveness is less in early life, increases to the twenty-fourth year, and decreases after that. The higher classes are most sensitive and the degenerate least. He found the latter class very obtuse to the sensation of pain. Endurance of pain varies between much broader limits in women than in men, reaching a maximum far beyond the masculine limit, possibly due to the 'greater suggestibility' of the female sex. General sensibility reaches the highest point in the nineteenth year. He . . . considers woman's comparative insensibility to pain as a sign of her inferiority to man, as the uncivilized and degenerates are least sensitive. He attempts to prove a connection between this characteristic and her longevity."

SCIENCE BREVITIES.

"KRAFFT-EBING, of the University of Vienna," according to *The Medical Times*, New York, "enlivened his instruction lately by allowing a madman, one of his patients, to lecture on mental diseases in his stead. The man is afflicted by periodic attacks of mania, during which he is much more clever and witty than when sane. His lecture on 'The Mental Condition of the Maniac in Periodical Attacks of Madness' was a brilliant success. After it was over he was shut up again."

"THE Lachine rapids of the St. Lawrence are at last to be utilized," says *The Yale Scientific Monthly*. "For some time work has been prosecuted on a large wing dam that runs out more than a thousand feet into the St. Lawrence River. A fall of water is secured by this means of 15,000 horse-power. This water-power is to be transformed into electricity. Upon the dam a power-house will be built to run its entire length and show an unbroken interior of 1,000 feet in length."

A BELGIAN engineer, M. Eugene François, recently read a paper on "American Machine and Engine-Building," which is translated in *Cassier's Magazine*, December. The author says that during a recent visit to the United States his attention "was almost exclusively devoted to their productive features, in the endeavor to learn how the Americans, paying from two to three times more for labor than is paid in Belgium, are able to sell their machinery, especially stationary and locomotive engines, at prices practically the same as ours." M. François concludes that "the three points which enable American labor to achieve the result already noted are: "First, the idea of simplicity and uniformity prevailing in the products of manufacture and the extensive use of cheap materials. Second, the equipment of the shops. Third, the methodical systemization of work."

SPEAKING of a recent European visit of Professor Trowbridge, of Harvard, *The Western Electrician* says: "In London and Paris Professor Trowbridge made a special examination of horseless carriages or motor cycles. He is of the opinion that the present electrical motor carriage is altogether too heavy, clumsy, noisy, and expensive to be of public use. On smooth, level roads in London and Paris it seemed to run very well, but it can not get up hills and it requires enormous power to be practical upon paved streets. An electrical carriage put on the streets of London to-day as a substitute for an omnibus would weigh about 2,500 or 3,000 pounds or more, and with passengers nearly 5,000 pounds. However, according to Professor Trowbridge, the French intend to settle the carriage problem. They are spending a great deal of time and money in their experiments, so much, indeed, that several American manufacturers of bicycles feel obliged to be represented whenever a demonstration is made."

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THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

CHAUTAUQUA THEOLOGY.

A NUMBER of religious papers are still discussing the charges of unsound theological teaching made against Bishop Vincent and the famous Summer School at Chautauqua. *The Herald and Presbyter* (Presbyterian, Cincinnati) is, for one, inclined to the belief that the Bishop and his friends have not made a satisfactory defense in the case. The gravamen of the charge, it will be remembered, was that Bishop Vincent had said on the Chautauqua platform that a belief in the divinity of Christ was not an essential article of the Christian faith. In substantiation of this *The Presbyterian Banner* quoted a passage from the Chautauqua *Assembly Herald*, in which it was declared that "Bishop Vincent had said that it was not necessary to believe in the doctrine of the divinity of Christ in order to be saved." Commenting on this, *The Presbyterian Banner* said that *The Herald* would certainly "not misrepresent Bishop Vincent, and that the statement was published where it was made; was read by those who heard what the Bishop said, and was circulated while the Bishop himself was actually at Chautauqua. Yet no contradiction was given, no complaint was made."

Replying to this point, the New York *Christian Advocate* denied the accuracy of the quotation, and gave the following as the exact language:

"Bishop Vincent then made a very strong address on the necessity of putting dogmatic theology in the background when the salvation of a soul is concerned. He dwelt especially on the doctrine of the divinity of Christ, and the fact that a failure to believe in the divinity of Christ does not necessarily prevent a man from becoming a Christian."

In an editorial on this subject *The Herald and Presbyter* quotes the statements given above, and adds:

"Our conviction, after reading all sides of the case, is that Bishop Vincent made at least a very questionable statement, and one which, unless it is corrected, will alienate many evangelical people from Chautauqua. Denials that the words were quoted exactly, and discussions of the exact meaning of the words, are not convincing. Many who heard the words, and others who have read the Chautauqua *Herald*, understood the Bishop as bidding for Unitarian favor. If this understanding is incorrect, he can make it plain by a straightforward declaration that the doctrine of Christ's deity is an essential part of the Chautauqua theology. Such a declaration will do what can not be done by pages of discussion.

"Chautauqua has reached a point which every undenominational institution must pass, and at which many begin their decline: the point at which they face the question whether they will cater to Unitarianism or maintain their evangelical integrity. We should be glad to see Bishop Vincent waive the whole discussion aside by the statement that, whatever he may have said, or however he may have been misunderstood, Chautauqua holds, in common with all Christian churches, that the doctrine of the deity of Christ is an essential part of any Christian system."

The Pittsburg *Christian Advocate* stands fast by Bishop Vincent and warmly resents the course of action adopted by his critics. It says:

"We repeat that the charges made against Bishop Vincent in this case are false and wicked. First, the remarks of the Bishop at the time in question were impromptu, and no one has attempted to give a sentence or word uttered by him in exact form. They have given merely their impressions or understanding. There is no court in the world would convict a man of heresy on such testimony, even if the witnesses had the courage to come out and give it. Second, Bishop Vincent distinctly and solemnly denies that he ever held or uttered such views. Third, they would be contrary to the faith and teaching of his whole life. Fourth, we have two witnesses of the highest character, who were present and heard the Bishop's speech, and who are not afraid to stand where they can be seen, the Rev. Dr. T. N. Boyle, of Pittsburg, and the Rev. Dr. T. P. Marsh, president of Mount Union College. These are witnesses whose competency and honesty no man will call in question. They distinctly say that the Bishop made no such statements as are attributed to him. Doctor Boyle, after referring to the lady's letter which called out the remarks, says:

"'She expressed an earnest longing to know Christ, but felt that she was hindered, and it was easy to infer that she was trying to understand this great mystery. She wanted the Bishop to remove her difficulty by explaining the mystery. He as an honest religious teacher acknowledged that he could not, as 'great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifested in the flesh.' He then urged upon her, and all others who were confused in the same way, to accept Christ as far as they apprehended him, and to become students that they might know more of Him.'"

CRITICISMS OF "IAN MACLAREN."

THE appearance of the two latest books by Rev. Dr. John Watson ("Ian Maclaren"), "The Mind of the Master" and "The Cure of Souls," together with some reported utterances of the preacher-novelist during his recent lecture tour in this country, has drawn out a considerable volume of adverse criticism from certain quarters in the religious press. Some have objected to what they call the Pelagianism in Dr. Watson's teachings. A specimen of this doctrine is given from his sermon at the University of Chicago, where he said: "If I went home with a man and saw his dog meet him kindly and put up his head to be caressed, I should know that there is good in that man. There is a good spot somewhere, and from that spot it is possible that good may grow until he that loved his dog will come to love his fellow men, and he that loves his fellow men will come to love God."

Commenting on this particular utterance, *The Interior* (Presb., Chicago) says:

"The high old term, Pelagianism, is applied to the doctrine that a little bit of good in a man, say enough to lead him to love his dog, and sick him on his neighbor's chickens, that a small germ of good in a man will grow and finally drive out all the bad. That will do very well for a doctrinal speculation or for a metaphysical contention, but everybody who has seen much of human nature knows it is not so. No one ever saw an instance of it. What our Lord told Nicodemus is one of the best verified facts within the knowledge of men."

The same paper (*The Interior*) coins the term "Drumtochty gospel" to distinguish that excessive humanitarianism which, it thinks, pervades the "Bonnie Brier Bush" stories and other writings of Dr. Watson. *The Journal and Messenger* (Baptist, Cincinnati) takes up the term "Drumtochty gospel" as the title of an editorial in which it speaks in severe terms of the teachings of the Scotch writer. Referring specially to the "Bonnie Brier Bush," it says:

"For some time after the book appeared we were careful not to say much about it, because we were afraid to commend it highly, and we did not want to appear unduly antagonistic to it, as tho 'scenting heresy' afar off. But the time has come when it is due to our readers that we put them on their guard against the influence of a book which is adapted to do more harm than any other which has come from the press during the past two decades. Perhaps not since the publication of 'Gates Ajar' has so dangerous a book made its appearance in this country. Not that there have not been books ostensibly more hostile to Christianity; but because of the pathos by which the book 'Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush' insinuates itself into the heart, disarms criticism, captivates the young and unsuspecting, attacks them on the side of their sympathies, and ensnares them before they are aware, it will, possibly, if it has not already, prove the ruin of many who else might have proved efficient and happy Christians."

A writer in the Pittsburg *Christian Advocate* (Meth. Episc.)

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objects to the way in which the sin of intemperance is held up in the portrayal of such characters as *Posty* and *Jamie Soutar;* the editor of *The Epworth Herald* heard one of Dr. Watson's lectures and thinks he has been greatly overrated; and a contributor to *The Independent* (Mr. James MacArthur) declares that he has no sympathy with Dr. Watson's fundamental attitude toward life, which he describes as one of "insolent security" toward sorrow and death. He also applies to certain teachings of the Scotch writer the term "sentimental optimism." Other papers, among which are *The Christian Advocate* (New York) and *The Christian Observer* (Louisville), refuse to indorse the proposal put forth by *The Church Union* for a general indorsement of the "Life Creed" found in the following passage from the book "The Mind of the Master":

"*I believe in the Fatherhood of God. I believe in the words of Jesus. I believe in the clean heart. I believe in the service of love. I believe in the unworldly life. I believe in the Beatitudes. I promise to trust God and follow Christ, to forgive my enemies, and to seek after the righteousness of God.*"

The Advocate says that this creed would be a snare except to those "who are agreed in their opinions in fundamental points" in Christian doctrine; and *The Christian Observer* denounces it as a "compound of emptiness and insult to God."

Not all the writers on the religious press, however, are of the same mind with reference to Dr. Watson and his teachings as those thus far quoted. Thus *The Northwestern Christian Advocate* (Methodist Episcopal, Chicago) makes its position quite clear in the following editorial utterance:

"'Ian Maclaren' has done much for literature, and for the kindly sympathetic bonds that make this whole human world akin. His 'Bonnie Brier Bush' glorifies the sturdy hearts that make Scotland more than coldly historic. We are quite sure that the day has happily gone forever in which it is possible to say that Walter Scott alone has 'made Scotland.' Trust Maclaren to limn the tender saint, or to prick a sham, whether it be Scotch on his side or on our own side of salt water. '*Willum McClure*'—pronounced with nine r's—now outranks the famous Greek almost sainted divinity of our doctors, and '*Marget Howe*' stands for all that is saintly, helpful, sacred, and memorable among women who as yet have not been put into the calendar of the saints. We defy the critics, and pronounce 'Kate Carnegie' one of the most human, natural, consistent, and thoroughly bracing stories of the day. 'The Upper Chamber' is a model of just spiritual analysis, and 'The Mind of the Master' could never have been written by one who is not a friend and intimate of the Christ."

It would appear also from the following extract that *The Methodist Recorder* (Methodist Protestant, Pittsburg) is inclined to a favorable view of the interpreter of Drumtochty life. It says:

"It took a long while for the heresy-hunter to scent heresy in the 'Bonnie Brier Bush,' but it was detected, and now, tho the author has spoken for years most instructively and helpfully both from the pulpit and rostrum in the centers of learning in England, and altho he spoke with the utmost favor and satisfaction to highly cultured and critical audiences of the clergy and students at New Haven, Conn., and tho one of the most scholarly of Pittsburg's scholarly ministers could grasp him by the hand and say, 'Dr. Watson, I have read every book you have written and I like them all,'—notwithstanding all this, poor 'Ian Maclaren' must flee for his orthodox life, for the heresy-hunter is now hot on his trail. On reflection, however, religious progress has been mostly along the line of the thought of the world's famous heretics."

A writer in *The Morning Star* (Free Baptist, Boston) enters into a somewhat lengthy defense of Dr. Watson from the charge made by the writer in *The Independent* who characterized the Scotchman's religious teachings as containing too much "insolent security" and "sentimental optimism." As to this, it is replied:

"Now, we have all read 'Ian Maclaren,' or a good part of him, and are able to testify unanimously that there is absolutely nothing in his assumptions but the simple postulates of Christian faith. These he has assimilated with peculiar energy of conviction, and sets them forth with the peculiar beauty of his genius and of his spirit; but in themselves there is absolutely nothing except what is found in the words of Christ and of His apostles. We have a right, therefore, to ask, Is it insolence to set forth the words of Christ as the foundation of human hope?"

The Jewish Messenger also is inclined to take a kindly view of the Scotch preacher. It says:

"His stories breathe a simplicity and freshness, a depth of pathos and a fund of humor that interest all readers. While naturally his characters and incidents appeal directly to the Christian public, for he is a clergyman as well as a novelist, his non-Christian readers are grateful for the tenderness and spirituality with which he has invested his scenes. So long as Great Britain can send us writers of his caliber we shall have reason to be grateful for their tonic influence."

Dr. Watson's "Life Creed," above quoted, is not offered by *The Church Union* as a substitute for existing creeds, as we stated in our issue several weeks ago; but as an interpretation of those creeds. We misread the circulars sent out by the editor of *The Church Union*, who desires that a correction be made. The spirit in which the "Life Creed" is offered appears from the following note in that paper:

"We want a definite idea of what a creed is. To many it has been a sort of theological puzzle or ecclesiastical conundrum. The settling of knotty subtleties—that is a creed. Well, it is surely no such thing. It is very far away from any such thing. But a creed is the great verities by which we mean to live, and for which we are willing to die. In this aspect of the case 'Ian Maclaren's' will pass muster with the best. . . . If a creed is something that Christians must fight about, then this will not do at all; but if it is something that they are agreed about, then it will do admirably. There is, of course, a question, whether the inmost, deepest faith can be satisfactorily put into a form of words; but if it is to be so put, this sounds as well and as nearly like the genuine thing as anything we know of.

"May it prosper and prevail!"

A Diatribe on Catholic Papers.—It is a Catholic paper that utters it—*The Monitor*, of San Francisco. What calls forth its words of derision for Catholic journalism in general is the adoption by certain Catholic societies of various papers as official organs. After declaring that it is not displeased because it was not itself adopted, and would probably decline the honor anyhow, *The Monitor* goes on to ease its editorial mind as follows:

"The Catholic Church throughout the world has more deadbeats and barnacles attached to it than any other organization that ever existed. The most obnoxious of this class in this country are the Catholic book and picture-peddler and the Catholic newspaper fakir. When a man has failed in every legitimate business that he puts his hands to he starts a Catholic newspaper and runs it on the criminal charity of Catholics and an unlimited supply of gall. And so we have the country flooded with papers that are a disgrace to the church which they are supposed to represent. To a great many non-Catholics these reflect the culture of the average Catholic mind. Is it any wonder that oftentimes Catholicity and ignorance are considered synonymous terms? In literary matters mediocrity, not to speak of stupidity, is a crime. If a man is not able to write fairly intelligently he should not write at all. In the secular public literary market there is small chance for a fool to sell his wares, tho occasionally he does succeed in doing so. It is only within religious organizations that the intellectual charlatan waxes fat. More literary sins are committed in the name of religion than the world dreams of. The whole history of literature shows this. The Catholic Church has suffered more than anybody can conceive of from the curse of scribbling knownothings. In this country the scribe microbe predominates, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific it keeps the church in a perpetual state of ill-health. It is about time that this state of things should cease. With a sixth of the population it is only natural to expect that we should have a fair proportion of trained literary men."

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TWO VIEWS OF GENESIS.

THE book of Genesis has been a battle-ground first between science and religion and then between liberal and conservative critics for the better part of this century. There is an interesting summing up of results on each side in *The Homiletic Review* (December), Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott speaking for the "higher critics" and Prof. William Henry Green, of Princeton, speaking for the conservatives. Dr. Abbtot's views were set forth in a discourse a few weeks ago in his church. He began by dividing history into epic, philosophic, and factual, meaning by the latter term mere chronicles of bald facts. All ancient history, he said, begins in legend, in epic poetry, such as the Homeric legends, the tales of King Arthur, and even much of our own colonial history. The question naturally occurs, Is there any such element in the Hebrew literature? This question Dr. Abbott answers affirmatively. The opening chapters of the Bible have all the appearance of literature written for a dramatic, not a scientific or philosophic, purpose. There is scarcely a date in the book of Genesis. It has all the flavor of poetry. If we analyze the book carefully we are able to discover two clearly defined elements of which it is composed. Dr. Abbott continued as follows:

"In the first century after Christ, Tatian took the four gospels and wove them together in one narrative. It is known as the Diatesseron. It has been recently unearthed in the Vatican, translated and published. If the four gospels had disappeared, you would have had in this one gospel instead of four. Now scholars have come to the conclusion, almost unanimously, that the book of Genesis is a harmony, composed principally of existing narratives, as the Diatesseron is, we know, composed of the four gospels, and they have been able to carry the analysis so far as to make tolerably clear what are the different elements in the book of Genesis. They are clear that there are at least two documents—more probably. One of them is known as the Elohist, or priestly document. It comes very near being factual in its character. It is mainly chronicle and annals; much more truly so than the other. You will observe, as you read the book of Genesis, that the phrase 'the book of the generations of so and so'—frequently occurs. That is the beginning of an Elohist chapter. The other is written by the Jahvist, so-called because he chooses the name Jehovah for God; he is prophetic, and in his writing is found the poetic element, the epic element."

Dr. Abbott mentioned the fact that Professor Green holds that there are not two documents combined in Genesis, but says that he knows of no other eminent scholar, in England, Germany, or America who agrees with Professor Green. He then proceeded to separate the two accounts, the Elohist and the Jahvist, and having read them separately, he continued:

"Now I believe that there are not a few people in this congregation who, if I had read either one of these, would have thought it was the Bible account. But it is not. That is made by weaving these two together, and there are incongruities in them. What is true of the Bible account of the deluge and of the creation is true of the other stories in Genesis. They are composed of different stories, and can, with more or less perfectness and satisfactoriness, be disintegrated and separated one from the other. Moreover, we now know that these stories which we find in the Bible are to be found in other, and some of them certainly in older, literature. They did not originate with the book of Genesis, except in their present form. Even if we suppose that Genesis was written by Moses, the story of the creation and the story of the deluge are found written on Syrian tablets far prior to the time of Moses. The account of the deluge which I am now going to read is a very short complete translation from a Syrian tablet, which George Smith puts as far back as 2,000 B.C. That is five or six hundred years before the days of Moses, and twelve or fifteen hundred years before the date of Genesis, if it was written at the time many modern scholars suppose it to have been written. So that now we know that the legends of which modern scholars think the book of Genesis is composed actually did exist outside of that book, and before that book was written.

"'1. The surface of the earth is swept.
"'2. It destroyed all life from the face of the earth.
"'3. The strong deluge over the people reached to heaven.
"'4. Brother saw not his brother, they did not know the people. In heaven
"'5. the gods feared the tempest and
"'6. sought refuge; they ascended to the heaven of Anu.
"'7. The gods like dogs in droves prostrate.
"'19. Six days and nights
"'20. passed, the wind, deluge, and storm overwhelmed.
"'21. On the seventh day in its course was calmed the storm and all the deluge
"'22. which had destroyed like an earthquake,
"'23. quieted. The sea he caused to dry and the wind and deluge ended.
"'24. I perceived the sea making a tossing;
"'25. and the whole of mankind turned to corruption,
"'26. like reeds the corpses floated.
"'27. I opened the window, and the light broke over my face.
"'28. It passed. I sat down and wept,
"'38. I sent forth a dove and it left. The dove went and turned, and
"'39. a resting-place it did not find, and it returned.
"'40. I sent forth a swallow and it left. The swallow went and turned, and
"'41. a resting-place it did not find, and it returned.
"'42. I sent forth a raven, and it left.
"'43. The raven went, and the decrease of the water it saw, and
"'44. It did eat, it swam and wandered away, and did not return.
"'45. I sent the animals forth to the four winds, I poured out a libation.
"'46. I built an altar on the peak of the mountain.'

"Suppose, then, that the book of Genesis is composed of legends existing long prior to the time of Moses, long prior to the time when Genesis was written, is there anything in the Bible inconsistent with this supposition? Even if you accept the chronology of your Bibles, which is not biblical; even if you suppose that Genesis was written by Moses, then 150 or 200 years elapsed between the time of Joseph and the time of Moses; four centuries between the time of Abraham and the time of Moses, and I know not how many centuries between the time of the deluge and the time of Moses. Suppose Moses wrote the book of Genesis; how did he get the facts respecting creation? Abraham? Joseph? He was certainly not an eye-witness. Are we to suppose, then, that God revealed them to him? He does not say so. Nobody says so for Him in the Bible. No writer in the Bible claims that God revealed to him his story, and it is safe for us who believe in the Bible to claim nothing for it that it does not claim for itself.

"What more natural to suppose, when we find these legends embodied in the old stories of other literatures; when we find the book of Genesis itself made up of stories, which we can separate in their interweaving; when we find Moses himself not claiming they were revealed, and no one claiming it for him in the Bible—what more natural to suppose than that he as an historian (assuming that he wrote the book), searching to know the truth, gathered these old legends and rewrote them with a new purpose? For the significant thing about the book of Genesis is that it is not merely a collection of legends, but a collection of legends rewritten. It is an epic history, but it is an epic history for the purpose of illustrating great spiritual truths."

One of which truths, we are told, is, that a righteous God walks upon the earth, lives among men, loves them, rules over them, and is preparing them for a fuller revelation of His presence.

A copy of Dr. Abbott's lecture was sent by the editors of *The Homiletic Review* to Professor Green for a review, and, prefacing his critique with a few words expressive of his warm personal regard for Dr. Abbott, Professor Green speaks as follows of the origin of the document hypothesis expounded by Dr. Abbott:

"It is worth noting at the outset that the most distinguished advocates of this hypothesis from the beginning, and those by whom it has been mainly elaborated in its successive forms, have been avowedly unbelievers in supernatural religion, to whom the Bible was Hebrew literature and nothing more, and to whom the religion of the Bible was, as Kuenen expresses it, like 'Buddhism or Islam,' one of the 'many manifestations of the religious spirit of mankind,' 'one of the principal religions, nothing less, but also nothing more.' Approaching the subject from this point of view, instead of that impartial state of mind which Dr. Abbott advocates as the true literary method, they came to the Bible with a decided bias against the unique claims which it makes for itself, and with a fixed persuasion that miracles and prophecy and immediate divine revelation are philosophically impossible. Accordingly the whole scheme which they have wrought out is built upon and pervaded by assumptions which have no other basis than these philosophical presuppositions. Both in shaping their so-called documents and in fixing upon their supposed date, these

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antecedent assumptions are determining factors. The history is throughout treated as untrustworthy, prophecies declared to have been only uttered after the event, miracles to have been first recorded ages after their performance, and it is confidently affirmed that professed immediate revelations from God could never have taken place. The document hypothesis has been carefully shaped into correspondence with these fundamental dicta. It is surely a most hazardous experiment upon which evangelical men in these recent years have ventured, when they accept a ready-made critical scheme which is infected through and through with anti-supernaturalistic assumptions, and expect to escape contamination from the virus which breathes from it in every part."

Professor Green says, further, that he does not see how Genesis ii. can be regarded as a second account of the Creation, as in it the Creation is not described, but assumed (Gen. ii. 4), and the writer of the account then proceeds to speak in detail of the primitive state of man. The book forms a continuous narrative, not a duplicated history. Professor Green proceeds:

"The only pretexts for division that have any apparent plausibility are found, not in the drift and substance of the narrative, but in certain features of its literary form, and in alleged discrepancies of statement, which are capable of ready explanation and require no assumption of a diversity of writers. In i. 1–ii. 3 the Most High is constantly called God (Heb.: Elohim); but in ii. 4–iii. 24 He is called Lord God (Heb.: Jehovah Elohim), and in chap. iv. Lord (Heb.: Jehovah). From this it has been inferred that these are by two separate writers, one of whom is in the habit of using the divine name Elohim, while the other makes use of the divine name Jehovah. The former of these hypothetical personages is accordingly denominated the Elohist, and the latter the Jehovist. But this assumption is altogether unnecessary. The alternation of these divine names, both here and elsewhere throughout the Pentateuch, is to be accounted for, not by a diversity of writers, but by a difference in the signification and usage of the names themselves. God made Himself known to the chosen race as Jehovah, the God of revelation and of grace. Elohim is the general term for God in His relation to the world at large and to all mankind. Hence in describing the creation of the world, i. 1–ii. 3, Elohim is the name proper to be used. In ii. 4–chap. iv., Jehovah is appropriate because the theme is the establishment of God's kingdom among men, as shown first in the primeval estate of man, then in the promise of redemption after the fall, and His dealings with Cain until he went out from the presence of the Lord, the seat of God's revelation. After this God was Jehovah to him no longer any more than to the tempter, iii. 1–5, to whom Cain had now completely surrendered himself. The different diction of chaps. i. and ii. is due, not to diversity of authorship, but to a difference in the subject treated and in the thought to be expressed, as can be clearly shown.

"The discrepancies alleged are not discrepancies at all. It is affirmed that the order of creation as described in the two chapters differs materially; that in chap. i. man was made after the vegetable creation and the lower animals, whereas in chap. ii. he was made before them. But this is a mistake. Chap. ii. says nothing of the general vegetation of the globe, but only of the production of trees in the garden of Eden. Moreover, chap. ii. pursues the order of thought, not of time, as chap. i. . . . To insist that the order of narration must in all cases be the order of time is plainly absurd in very many passages. And it can not be insisted upon here. And if not, there is no semblance of an inconsistency with the statements of chap. i. And then there is no reason whatever for assuming that chap. ii. was written by any other than the author of chap. i."

Professor Green takes up various objections raised against the details of the account in Genesis, and then endeavors to show that the story of the Prodigal Son might be divided into two accounts, but that this does not prove that it was made up of a combination of two documents, and that such a conclusion is equally untenable for the book of Genesis. He concludes as follows:

"The number of competent scholars who believe in and defend the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch is not so restricted as is sometimes represented. Professor Sayce of England and Professor Hommel of Munich have both been brought by their archeological researches to distrust and to reject the conclusions of the divisive critics. Dr. Zahn of Stuttgart, Rupprecht of Bavaria, and Hoedemaker of Amsterdam have written ably on the conservative side; so have Sime and Cave of Great Britain, and the fourteen contributors to Lex Mosaica, who are men of ability and note. And in this country Professors Mead, Vos, Zenos, and Schmauk, Beattie, Witherspoon, Osgood, MacPheeters, MacDill, and White have published their views on the subject; not to speak of the much greater number of professors in American institutions who hold and teach the same views, tho they may not have published books on the subject."

Pride of the Armenians.—"The Armenians are not modest when they talk of their pedigree and their ancestors," says J. Theodore Bent, in *The Contemporary Review:* "in fact few people could beat them in their bold assertions. Theirs was the first country populated after the universal deluge, for did not the ark rest on Mount Ararat? They claim as the more immediate founder of their race one Haik, grandson of Japhet, and they sometimes still use the name Haistan for their country. Legends, too, are rife among them that they received Christianity during the lifetime of Christ, and, furthermore, they tell you about the letter which King Abkar wrote to Christ, and to which he received an autograph reply; also, that he wrote to Pilate concerning our Lord, and that SS. Thaddeus, Bartholomew, and Judas (not Iscariot) came to Armenia and preached in their land."

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

"A GREAT series of missions to Non-Catholics" is announced at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Rosary, New York city. The missioner-in-chief is to be the Rev. Walter Elliott. The purpose of these "missioners" is to "explain the Catholic doctrine and to disseminate a better knowledge of the teachings of the Gatholic Church." They are to be continued during the winter months.

REV. A. R. THAIN, D.D., is to become the editor of *The Advance*, the Congregational paper of Chicago. He is a Scotchman by birth, but has spent nearly all his life in this country. He is about fifty-five years of age, and has been twenty-six years in the Congregational ministry of the West. He is at present pastor of the Congregational church in Tabor, Iowa. He will enter on his new duties next February.

THE new Archbishop of Canterbury and the new Bishop of London will do homage to the Queen at Osborne during the first week in January, the ceremony being conducted by the Bishop of Winchester in his official capacity as Clerk of the Closet. The Archbishop is to be enthroned in Canterbury Cathedral a day or two afterward, and the enthronement of the Bishop in St. Paul's will also take place at once, the Bishop of Dover officiating as Archdeacon of Canterbury.

MR. MOODY has sent out a general appeal to the pastors and Christian people of the country in which he says: "During the remaining days of this year, let us all wait on our Master for special preparation, and when the new year opens, why should not every church begin the season with a thirty-day series of gospel meetings? Why not set aside every other diversion and church-work itself, to engage in united work for the spread of the Gospel? The world needs it sorely and was never more ready to receive it. It is the privilege of the church to receive it."

AN American Guild of Organists has been formed in New York city. Its object, as described by E. Irenæus Stevenson in *The Independent*, is, advancing the character, attainments, and standing of church organists, keeping the clergy and their musical helpers in closer accord, and doing what can be done for improving the quality and appropriateness of music in church services. Its local acting membership takes in the best-known choir leaders and organists of this city. The honorary members present twenty-three of New York's foremost clergymen—and a few more distant ministers—tho the Catholic clergy do not enter into the list. Bishop Potter is at the head. Public meetings and services, exclusively in churches, with music, vocal and instrumental, chosen strictly from the most representative and sound writers for church services, will be held, and addresses on the office and dignity of religious music delivered.

DR. JOHN WATSON has returned to the mother country. His success in the lecturing field was from all accounts very notable. Major Pond is quoted by *Harper's Weekly* as saying that he never had a lecturer, except Stanley, who did better. Stanley made more money not because he drew more people, but because seats were sold at higher prices. Dr. Watson began his labors by giving nine free lectures at Yale on theological subjects, and all to overflowing audiences. After Major Pond got him started on his travels and discovered the energy of the public desire to hear him, he worked him hard, thrusting odd lectures at short notice into spare chinks of time, and trying hard to spread the Doctor out enough to make him go round. He seems not to have fully succeeded, for tho Dr. Watson responded gamely to the demands upon him, Major Pond parted with him with sore reluctance, and not without making him a heavy gilded offer for an additional six months' engagement.

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FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

MACEO'S DEATH AND OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

TWO new phases of the Cuban question engage at present the attention of the civilized world: The death of Antonio Maceo, and the open hostility to Spain shown in the press and in the Congress of the United States. The general opinion is that the rebellion lost its main support when Antonio Maceo fell. The *Nieuws van den Dag*, Amsterdam, relates the following particulars regarding the late leader of the colored insurgents:

"The mulatto was the last remaining one of ten brothers, all of whom died in battle against the Spaniards. Their father did not at first intend to take part in the insurrection of 1868, but a troop of Spanish soldiers ill-treated him and his family, took away his mules, and burned his homestead. The Maceos then joined the rebels, and all of them, except Antonio, were killed. After fourteen years of struggle Antonio Maceo, who had become a celebrated leader of the colored element, was forced to fly to the United States, where he remained until 1895. It is not too much to say that his death means as much to the insurrection as the loss of a large army. He had studied the art of war from a theoretical point of view in the United States, had trained a body of trusty followers in Costa Rica, and his influence was enormous."

The rumor that Maceo was assassinated finds little credence abroad. The Havana people are apparently much astonished at it, and heard it first from the United States. The *Diario de la Marina*, Havana, long before the story of foul play had been published, received the following account from an eye-witness:

"News had been received that a large body of insurgents would attempt to cross the Trocha, and a body of 356 infantry and 123 irregular cavalry under Colonel Cirujeda were sent to intercept them. Altho the insurgents were several thousand strong, Cirujeda accepted battle near Fort San Pedro. A hand-to-hand fight began, during which the small Spanish force was driven back, but managed to take up a position where it could hold its own, in spite of several furious charges of the insurgents, who exposed themselves recklessly. During one of these charges it became known that an officer of importance had fallen on the insurgent side, for the rebels retired in confusion, but returned to the charge to recover the body. The fallen chief proved to be Antonio Maceo. By his side lay young Francisco Gomez, upon whose body the following note, hastily scribbled in pencil, was found: 'Dear Father, dear Mother. I die upon my post. I do not care to abandon Maceo's body. I will be found by his side. Have been hit twice, and do not want to fall into enemy's hands alive. I kill myself. Friend or foe—this paper of a dying man should be rightly delivered. Francisco Gomez.' There was a daring woman among the insurgents who urged them continually to come to close quarters, saying that she knew the Spaniards were few in number. The enemy lost forty killed and many horses. The number of wounded is not known. On our side we had to deplore the loss of three killed and thirty-one wounded. We lost eighteen horses." (Then follow the names of the killed and wounded.)

The warlike tone of our papers again brings up the possibility of a struggle between the United States and Spain. The general opinion seems to be that Spain, altho her population is less than a fourth that of the United States, and her financial resources in a bad condition, need not altogether despair. Doubt is expressed whether America can muster an army fit to match against Spain's seasoned troops. The *Neuesten Nachrichten*, Berlin, says:

"When the Spanish loan was taken up so enthusiastically there were not wanting cynics who said that a promise to pay and actual payment are two different things. But more than 90 per cent. of the loan was paid into the Bank of Spain before November 28. Many people were patriotic enough to make the country a present of the premium, the money thus subscribed to be used for the benefit of the wounded. More: A number of Spanish financiers have agreed to advance $80,000,000, on non-interest-bearing bonds, to be paid ten years after the end of the war, and the collections taken up throughout the country for the benefit of the wounded and sick produce many millions."

The feeling against the United States is very bitter in Spain. "If the Americans *must* have war, they are welcome," says the Madrid *Correo*. The *Globo* thinks it "mighty funny that the Americans, who are not at all anxious to admit their own niggers as equals, are so brimful of affection for the blacks and half-breeds of Cuba that they want to assist them in becoming masters of the island." The *Imparcial* says:

"This arrogance of the United States does not concern Spain only, but all Europe. The Americans say in just so many words that no European power has rights on the Western hemisphere. But Europe is not likely to be frightened that way. The powers will do what they please, independent of American bluff and bluster. Nor should we, even if we stand alone, allow ourselves to be intimidated. God knows, we do not want this war, but we can not afford to be robbed. We must continue on our course without notice of Yankee noise. If they want war and nothing else will do them, they shall have it."

The *Correspondencia Militar* compares the armed forces of the United States and Spain, and comes to the conclusion that Spain need not consider the struggle hopeless. The *Liberal* declares that "despite modern cynicism, the enthusiasm of men defending their own counts for something in such a war." President Cleveland's message on the whole is discussed calmly. The *Nacional* thinks that Spain will be able to settle her quarrel with Cuba as the President indicates. The *Union Constitutional*, Havana, says:

"It must be confessed that it is rather disagreeable for Spain to be lectured thus on matters which concern her alone. But then, we are not isolated in the matter. We are in good company. The tone of President Cleveland's message, or rather that part of it which concerns us, does not differ materially from similar documents addressed by him to other powers. On the whole he seems to be favorably inclined to Spain."—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

THE POLITICAL POLICE AND THE PRESS IN GERMANY.

A POLITICAL lawsuit of more than ordinary interest has been decided in Berlin. Freiherr v. Lützow and Mr. Leckert-Larsen, both connected with the secret police, have been sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment for libel and slander, and editor Plötz, of the *Welt am Montag*, has to pay a fine of $125 for publishing a slanderous article.

During a dinner given at Breslau to Nicholas II. of Russia by the German Emperor, the latter remarked that he felt great friendship for his Russian guests. The Russian Emperor replied that he was imbued with the same feeling *as his host* ("*Je puis vous assurer, sire, que je suis animé de mêmes sentiments traditionels que votre majesté*"). But an official telegram was sent out by Wolff's Bureau, in which the text of Emperor Nicholas's reply had been changed. He was represented as saying that he was actuated by the same feeling for Germany *as his father* ("*que mon pêre.*") It seemed strange that the German Emperor, whose pride is well known, persisted in his amiable conduct toward the Russian monarch, for the Czar's father was anything but Germany's friend; but as Wolff's Bureau is very reliable, the whole world received the "doctored" text of Emperor Nicholas in good faith. The German Government caused the "mistake" to be rectified, but as the world at large is supplied with news *via* London, where a rebuff to Germany is accepted as pleasant information, the true text did not obtain credence.* The *Welt am Montag* printed two articles, accusing the Foreign Secretary, Baron v. Marschall, of having caused this sensational

* See THE LITERARY DIGEST, vol. xiii., page 695.

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telegram. Brought to justice, editor Plötz declared that Freiherr v. Lützow, an agent of the political police, was responsible for the alteration. Lützow accused the chief of the political police, Baron Tausch, of having influenced him, and declared that a powerful clique at court wished to compass v. Marschall's removal. The trial further disclosed the fact that there is much jealousy between the members of the German Government, and that unscrupulous persons foster this jealousy by newspaper attacks upon Ministers of State, supposed to have been written or "inspired" by Cabinet Ministers. The *Kölnische Zeitung*, Cologne, says:

"For years we have tried to convince our contemporaries that it is extremely foolish to designate as 'official' all kinds of information the origin of which is not perfectly clear. The freedom of the German press is guaranteed by the fact that it is not necessary to mention the name of a writer. Hence the papers and the public should judge an article with regard to its objective value alone, independently of the political or social standing of the writer. The press can not remain influential unless it is also independent. We have often been accused of being 'official' when we had nothing to do with persons connected with the administration. We have failed to reply to the accusation because we consider newspaper wars neither pleasant nor dignified. Perhaps the action brought by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will have a lasting effect upon the press, and so-called official articles will become less frequent."

The *Kölnische* comforts itself with the thought that the public will now, for a while at least, accept court gossip with extreme caution. It also asks James Gordon Bennett, of the New York *Herald*, "to act like a gentleman and give an account where Norman, alias Schuman, alias Wahlgreen, alias Dr. Mundt, who has for years fabricated German news for the benefit of the American public, got his information." The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, Frankfurt, says:

"The matter is not ended here, for the prosecution of Commissioner Tausch will doubtless lead to new disclosures. But whatever secrets may come to light, Baron v. Marschall's has had a purifying effect upon German politics. It is to be hoped that the Reichstag will busy itself with this affair until not a vestige of suspicion is left upon innocent persons. It is necessary for the people to know to what use the money of the secret-service fund has been put."

And the *Reichsbote*, Berlin, writing in the same strain, says: "It is to be hoped that the journalistic talent of the political police will be allowed to rest. What must the nation think when it hears that these persons continually attack not only the Emperor's surroundings, but the Emperor himself, in order to sow dissension by which they may reap a profit?" The *Freisinnige Zeitung*, Berlin, describes the organization and work of the political police as follows:

"It is a special department of the police, and stands under the immediate command of the police-president of Berlin. Its director is a member of the Ministry of the Interior. Its staff is composed of two assessors, a councillor, a commissioner, and six men drawn from the criminal police. Its work is to inform the Government on matters which usually are kept secret, such as the identity of the writers of important articles in the daily press. Also to inform the papers of the opinion of the Government in an unofficial manner. Naturally such men obtain much influence, and are able to persecute officials whom they do not like."

Many German Ministers dispense with the services of this police altogether. Caprivi, the late Chancellor of the Empire, neither subsidized papers nor did he care to know the names of men who attacked him in the press. Baron v. Marschall says: "I have never made use of these men." The *Vossische Zeitung*, Berlin, says under this subject:

"What v. Marschall does should become the rule among high officials. The Government has the columns of the *Reichsanzeiger* at its disposal, and if necessary every independent paper will accept a *bona-fide* communication. But these so-called 'inspired' articles do more harm than good. The political police should be thoroughly reorganized. If it is to be of service to the Government, it should be under the direct supervision of the Chancellor, and should be used for purposes of statecraft only. To spy upon the press and to carry tales to certain newspapers is neither dignified nor useful to the country."

The immediate consequences of this libel suit are anything but pleasant for the German press. "Inspired" articles, hints from persons in high position, and similar hints to faithful newspapers are no longer forthcoming. Editors have to be mighty careful just now. There is a perfect epidemic of lawsuits for publishing incorrect statements, and the editors, if found guilty, have to pay fines ranging all the way from $10 to $500. Encouraged by the attitude of the Government, private persons are equally ready to bleed publishers for misstatements. Reporters are mercilessly excluded from all state dinners. The worst is that the authorship of all this backbiting and intrigue is fastened upon the political police and a few journalists only. The Berlin *Tageblatt* thinks it will be found that the supposed great intrigues in court circles do not even exist.—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

HAWAII AND ANNEXATION.

ACCORDING to all accounts, there are two rival factions among those in control of Hawaii. The wealthy element, assured by the experience of the last few years, wish to preserve the independence of Hawaii. The natives are too docile to rise against their American masters, and the Japanese, it is thought, can be prevented from obtaining the suffrage by the threat of American interference. But the rank and file of the Americans wish unreserved annexation to the United States. The wealthy sugar-planters fear that annexation would result in the influx of undesirable elements from the United States, for, with the exception of the West Indian Islands, there is no place on earth where men can live with so little labor as Hawaii. The poorer Americans, led by a few prominent men, have organized an "Annexation Club," the avowed object being to prevent the Japanese from obtaining equal rights with the Americans. One of the leaders, Judge Hartwell, said:

"There are five Japanese immigration companies in Honolulu, and unless there is a material change, these societies will soon run this country. It is all right for people to say the United States will not allow any foreign power to assert itself in Hawaii; the United States can say what they please, but they can not stop the natural order of things."

Another speaker, J. H. Fisher, said:

"I do not think it is necessary to give excuses for calling the meeting. For a long time past there has been no necessity for agitating the question, but the change of conditions in the United States requires some decided action on our part. It has been a long time, to us, since there has been a Republican Administration at Washington, and as one will assume the reins in March, it is our duty to let the people in Washington know we are still anxious to be annexed. If there is a weakness among the people here, it must be strengthened."

The Hawaiian Gazette, Honolulu, quoting from the minutes of the meeting and the resolutions passed, thinks that it will be impossible to overcome the annexation movement. It says:

"'Leaving to the United States to enact such laws as Congress shall deem to be proper.' There is nothing ambiguous in that expression. It means but one thing and only one: Hawaii asks for admission to the American Union without quibbling over labor laws, immigration laws, sugar laws, or any other laws. The laws of the United States are good enough for Hawaii; the people of this country say to Uncle Sam: 'Open your doors and let

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us in; place us on a footing with your own citizens, and we are satisfied.'

"What more can American statesmen or American citizens ask? The wording of that phrase, which is a foundation-stone and platform all combined, is such that no one who can read the English language need mistake its meaning. The people of Hawaii ask for nothing better or worse than the blessings enjoyed by the citizens of the grand American Republic. There are no riders on their annexation bill."—*Condensed for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

THE POPULATION OF ASIATIC TURKEY.

IN these days of "Armenian horrors" it is not easy to obtain a just view of the difficulties which beset the Government of Turkey. An exception to this rule is an article by M. de Coutenson in the *Correspondant*, Paris. The writer points out that the nationalities which inhabit Turkey are very difficult to assimilate. While the population of the United States, drawn chiefly from the most intelligent nations of Europe, is easily welded into one homogeneous mass, the nations of the East, tho never politically independent, remain divided on tribal and religious lines. The writer thinks that statistics are nowhere more difficult to compile than in Turkey. He has, however, endeavored to give a comprehensive view of the many racial and religious interests which cause internecine strife in Turkey. From his description of Turkey in Asia we gather the following:

The population there, 17,474,424 in all, according to the best census, may be classified thus:

Moslems.	Turks and nations assimilated by them	7,815,785	
	Arabs and Syrians	3,382,316	12,991,128
	Kurds, Turcomans, and kindred tribes	1,793,327	
Christians	Orthodox (Greeks and Syrians)	1,859,288	
	Catholics (Maronites, Greeks, Melchites, Syrians, Chaldeans, and Latins)	704,930	
	Protestants	5,689	3,849,595
	Armenians (Gregorian, Catholic, and Protestant)	1,133,779	
	Miscellaneous (Jacobites, Nestorians, etc.)	232,225	
Israelites			192,696
Druses			151,837
Ansarians			128,720
Miscellaneous (Gypsies, etc.)			160,448

As to variety, as will be seen, nothing is left to be desired. But many-colored as this picture is, it can not be compared with the diversity of race, language, and faith in some of the provinces taken separately. For it must be remembered that the Turks are not distributed equally throughout the empire. In Anatolia they form a fairly compact mass of four fifths of the population, the Greeks being found on the coast only. In Anatolia the Turk is not looked upon as a stranger. He is in undisputed possession of the soil, and the province is fairly quiet and prosperous. Nor need there be any concern with regard to the islands, where the Greek element has the majority and is, as in the case of Crete, well able to assert itself. Armenia, however, is in a perfect state of chaos. That province is inhabited by a confused mass of settled and nomadic tribes, which have made war upon each other from time immemorial. The Turks, it must be admitted, have not been the accomplices of the assassins. The blame rests almost entirely with the Kurds. These mountaineers have followed the sport of hunting the people of the lowlands from time immemorial, and neither the Persians, nor the Assyrians, nor the Turks have been able to overcome them in their mountain strongholds. The Turks have, at least, been partially successful, since they have forced the Kurds to adopt the Mohammedan religion. The Turks form about 41 per cent. of the population of Armenia, the Kurds fully 33 per cent. The Armenians, who claim the right to be called the predominant race, form scarcely 16 per cent. of the population, and even these are strongly antagonistic to each other on religious lines.

The fault of Turkish administration must be sought chiefly in the fact that the Turkish Government allows none but Moslems to bear arms in its service. As it is impossible to withdraw a sufficient number of Turks from their occupations for military and police duty, the Government has been forced to employ Kurds, who are Mohammedan at least in name. Thus the hereditary robber of yesterday becomes the official guardian of to-day, and the result may be imagined. How difficult it is to create order among the various tribes in Armenia may be gathered from the following statistics of the population:

Moslems.	Turks and races assimilated by them	2,226,370		
	Kurds and kindred tribes	1,664,719		3,891,087
Christians	Greek Orthodox	339,668		
	Miscellaneous, (Nestorians, etc.)	165,726		
	Catholics, (Chaldeans, etc.)	51,392		
	Armenians: Gregorians	691,519		
	Armenians: Catholics	57,642	828,841	1,385,627
	Armenians: Protestants	79,680		
Israelites				6,675
Miscellaneous (Gypsies, etc.)				98,144
Total population of Armenia				5,381,533

M. de Coutenson also furnishes some statistics explaining the reluctance of Russia to assist in the formation of an independent Armenian kingdom. The total Armenian population of the world is given at something over 2,400,000, divided as follows:

Turkey in Asia	1,130,000
Turkey in Europe	250,000
Russian Armenia and the Caucasus	840,000
Persian Armenia	150,000
Various countries	60,000

—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

DISTRESS IN THE WEST INDIES.

SERIOUS riots have taken place in the West Indian possessions of Great Britain, notably in Demerara, British Guiana. There can be little doubt that business is in a bad way in those colonies. The sugar-planters have for a long time been unable to keep up their old, somewhat expensive style of living, for European sugar has flooded the market. In Demerara the trouble has been aggravated by the rumor of rich gold-mines in the territory now under dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. People have waited for the rush to be made, instead of attending to business. Now the bubble has burst, and the British Government is asked for help. The Protectionist element in England has seized upon the opportunity to get the thin edge of the wedge into Britain's free-trade policy. The Government, so far, has taken refuge in that old-time panacea for all earthly ills—a commission of inquiry. Sir George Baden-Powell, during an interview upon this subject, expressed his hope that it would be unnecessary to adopt protection. He said:

"If the West Indian trade be allowed to collapse altogether, not only shall we have to deal with the distress of these islands, but we shall feel it in other parts of the empire. It is wonderful the amount of hope and confidence the employment of coolies in different parts of the empire gives to the people of British India. It adds to the prestige of the empire. It influences the coolies considerably in their opinion of the power of Great Britain. Then, again, I believe that Uganda and the east coast of Africa will in time prove most valuable as sugar-producing countries; but first of all the industry must be freed from the bane of bounties. This can only be done by an international conference. The bounty-giving nations impoverish each other, and we will find that each wants to settle the question."

A Demerara merchant suggests an appeal to the patriotism of Englishmen "to escape the unjust oppression of European competition." He would mark each package of sugar coming from his colony with golden letters thus: "Demerara Sugar: Can not be made in Germany."

The St. James's Gazette says:

"It is now known that unless steps can be taken, and that without loss of time, to check the bounty-fed competition of Continental beet-sugar, a large number of the best cane-plantations will be allowed to go out of cultivation.

"If this happens it is apprehended that social order in the colonies will be in considerable peril. Riots, on a much more serious scale than those which have already occurred in Demerara are anticipated. Bands of starving negroes may infest the country and attempt to pillage the towns, and collisions with the

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armed forces of the Crown may occur, with calamitous consequences.

"The position is considered too grave to justify further inaction; and it is probable that a small commission will be appointed by Mr. Chamberlain to inquire into the subject. There is no intention, we are informed, to make this commission a device for shelving the whole question; the state of affairs is too urgent for that."

The Colonies and India, London, says:

"Too many commissions and royal commissions have already been appointed in regard to West Indian affairs, with very little result, and the time has now arrived for practical work, and nothing else. It will be in the recollection of many that nine years ago an international conference was held at the Foreign Office in London, which was called together by Lord Salisbury for the purpose of considering the basis of an understanding for the suppression of bounties on the exportation of sugar. . . . After numerous sittings and correspondence, a protocol was unanimously signed by the various representatives, which condemned the whole system of bounties, and proposals to that end were embodied in a convention which was to last for ten years, and there after from year to year. In addition to this, a bill for the ratification of the convention was introduced in the House of Commons; but with what result? A dead set was immediately made against it, not only by the Opposition, but from other quarters as well, one of the leading opponents being the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, so that the Government were obliged to quietly drop the bill, which has never since been introduced. . . . That the question is urgent every one will admit, and it therefore behoves the Secretary of State to admit frankly that he has changed the opinions he held in 1888, and is now prepared to carry out some scheme for the relief of the sugar-planters throughout the British West Indies."

The Manchester Guardian declares that the West Indian planters have been in a bankrupt condition for years. They hoped that the European nations would get tired of giving bounties to their beet-sugar industry. They find that they were mistaken, and they believe that nothing but protection can save them. *The Monetary Times*, Toronto, thinks the evil may remedy itself in time. It says:

"The German farmer is beginning to find out that increase of the bounty on exported sugar is all absorbed in the reduction of the price in foreign markets, which was in fact its avowed object, and that he gets none of it. If the conviction should become general that it is impossible to benefit the German or French farmer by sugar bounties, the evil of which the British West Indies complain may cure itself. But the work of conviction is likely to be slow, and meanwhile the British West India interest undoubtedly suffers."

Some West Indian papers nevertheless believe that the distress of those colonies is not entirely due to European competition in the sugar industries. We condense the following from *The Jamaica Post*, Kingston:

There are a few men who shut their eyes to the fact and say that there is no more vagrancy here than in any other part of the British Empire. But the opinions of such individuals are as ridiculous as those of the few benighted mortals in England and America who cling blindly to the belief that the earth is a plane, round which the sun revolves. That vagrancy is a crying evil here is admitted by all except one or two individuals who have an interest in denying it. Along with vagrancy goes the decline of prosperity. A community is made up of producers and consumers. If the consumers increase at an abnormal rate while the producers remain stationary or diminish in numbers, ruin is the result. This is precisely what is the matter in Jamaica. Loafers and idlers are becoming more numerous, and the acreage under cultivation is decreasing. Is it surprising that the poor become poorer and that the colony is drifting into financial troubles? If Jamaica is to be made prosperous again, the people must return to the tillage of the soil. Hence the call of the intelligent for the enactment of a stringent vagrancy law. There will be no progress as long as idle vagabonds are allowed to loaf about all day and live on the industry of their hard-working neighbors.

The Rebellion in Tibet.—The disintegration of China seems to be progressing. Tibet, the country of the Dalai-Lama, and for centuries a part of the Chinese Empire, is said to be in open revolt. The *Asahi Shimbun*, Osaka, intimates that the rebellions which are everywhere arising in China are a direct result of the war with Japan. The paper says:

"The chief cause of the rising is that the Chinese have begun to oppose seriously the large bands of Tibetan robbers which began to infest southern China. These robbers were reinforced by Tibetans living in the neighborhood, and at last the whole country rose in rebellion against China. Another reason is the liberation of Korea from Chinese rule. The Tibetans have heard of it, and their hope of regaining their independence has been awakened. Numerous priests of the Dalai-Lama instigate the population to revolt. Many of the priests themselves are fighting. The Tibetans are a very warlike race, well versed in the use of arms, and their rebellion is a source of danger to China, especially as the insurrection of the Dungans is spreading. The Chinese authorities distrust the troops of southern China, and 3,000 Mongolians and Manchurians have been sent, with some artillery, to quell the rising of Tibet."

The English papers published in China believe that this rebellion will engage the attention of Russia and England. The *North China Gazette* assumes that China will be unable to restore peace in Tibet, and prophesies that it will form another important center of political and diplomatic action.—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

FOREIGN NOTES.

IT is reported that the Hamburg shipowners are considering the increase of longshoremen's wages from $1.05 to $1.15, an increase which it is alleged they were willing to grant and the strikers willing to accept ere the Socialist committee took hold of the matter. The owners aver that this increase of ten cents per day represents a fair share of the increased prosperity of the port.

THE subscription for the benefit of the wounded and sick in Cuba which the Madrid *Imparcial* has opened has passed the $100,000 mark. Ex-Empress Eugenie sent $1,000, each ambassador of the great powers $100. The *Imparcial* remarks that the success of the subscription is all the more noteworthy as the French papers could not obtain more than $19,000 for the wounded in Madagascar during several months.

SOUTH AFRICA is not the only quarter of the globe where the Dutch element is in ascendency. In Belgium the Flemings have succeeded in obtaining for their language equal recognition with the French. Until recently French was the official language; now all government documents must be written and published in both languages. The Flemings, or Dutch Belgians, number 2,744,000; the Walloons, or French Belgians, only 2,485,000.

SOME of our German contemporaries labor hard to make England responsible for all earthly ills. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* now accuses President Cleveland of being an Anglomaniac, and attributes the reintroduction of tonnage dues on German vessels entering American ports to English intrigue. But the *Kölnische Zeitung* declared that Cleveland's affection for Great Britain is on a par with that of the members of the Clan-na-gael.

ANOTHER military scandal, this time in Austria. An editor at Olmutz published some statements regarding the conduct of two officers, which statements were regarded incorrect by the court of honor. The editor refused to revise them, but offered to fight a duel. The officers, however, backed by their colonel, denied the journalist the honor of a duel, tho they publicly beat him with a cane. The excuse of the officers is that persons who profit by publicly calumniating others can not be accorded the privileges of gentlemen.

THE state of Mecklenberg-Schwerin, in Germany, has admitted the city of Wismar to representation in the state legislature. Sweden took the city in 1803, and returned it with the understanding that $1,000,000 should be paid to her in 1903. There has been some talk that Sweden will prefer to claim the city rather than the money in 1903, but its admission into the state legislature seems to indicate that Germany will not permit the port to be occupied by a foreign power, altho both England and Russia are said to favor Sweden's claim.

A GOOD deal of unqualified censure is heard from foreigners whenever an American city is subjected to the enforcement of some of the Sunday laws, and our German friends are apt to speak of the freedom of the German Sunday. But Prussia has her so-called "blue laws" as well as America, and they are sometimes revived in an unexpected manner. Thus a baker in Berlin has been indicted for the crime of playing worldly airs on the piano during church-time. He informed the policeman who heard the desecration that it was his wife's birthday. But the officer insisted that the family must make merry to the tune of the "Old Hundred," "In the Hour of Trial," or of similar inspiring music. The baker, taking no notice of the warning, played "Pop Goes the Weasel" and "The Dude's March," and a summons was served.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

SHOCKING HABITS OF POULTRY.

EVERYBODY knows that Scotland is far from being a land of total abstinence from strong drink; but it is news that even the poultry of Scotland are beginning to engage in bacchanalian orgies. The following account of a trial growing out of such a departure from rectitude is reproduced in *The Westminster Gazette*, with the editorial remark that if they did not know better, they might conclude from this account "that the Scotch reporters had been emulating their American compeers":

"On Wednesday at Oban [county of Argyle, Scotland], before Sheriff Mactavish, John Turner Laggan claimed £50 damages, restricted to £12, against a local distillery company, for injury done to his poultry by the said company in allowing intoxicating material to flow into the Laggan burn. This material, it was alleged, caused drunkenness among the pursuer's poultry, and consequently rendered them of little or no value to him. Pursuer elicited that for some years past he had been making a considerable income from keeping poultry, but that since the starting of the distillery he had made little or nothing. His hens and ducks would not eat. They were, he might say, almost always more or less under the influence of drink, except on Sundays, when the distillery was not working. On Sundays their condition was pitiable in the extreme. Mondays were their worst days, for then the hens drank excessively, fell into the burn frequently, and lately he had to keep a boy to look after them on Monday mornings. They took no food unless they first had a walk to Laggan burn. Their conduct was generally very reprehensible, and the duck were no better than the hens. It took the poultry some time to discover the burn. He thought it was a hen he had bought at Fort William that made the discovery first, and that she had led the rest astray.

"Cross-examined by Mr. William Smith, solicitor: Have you ever observed 'gapes' in hens?—Yes. Do you not consider that your hens are suffering from 'gapes?' Yes, whisky 'gapes.' [Laughter]. Did you know anything about this Fort William hen before you bought her?—Nothing whatever.

"Mr. John Scott at this stage wished to read to the Bench an article by Mr. Andrew Lang referring to a somewhat similar case. Mr. Smith objected, as the party was not called. Mr. Scott stated he had summoned Mr. Lang, but he had not put in an appearance. He left himself in his lordship's hands. The sheriff sustained the objection.

"Superintendent Moss was then asked by Mr. Scott to place on the bench a large cage of wickerwork containing the Fort William hen referred to. He asked to be allowed to recall the pursuer. Granted.

"Mr. Scott: This is the Fort William hen?—It is. Is it sober?—It is not.

"Any one could notice that this was correct, for it sat on the bottom of the cage and put its long neck through the bars, looked sideways at the ceiling, crooning to itself in what was termed a 'maudlin style' by the pursuer. This was always noticed, he further stated, when it was 'far gone.' At this stage the hen seemed to address some forcible remarks to his lordship, who ordered it to be taken away.)

"Examination continued: Was this hen at the distillery burn this morning?—Any one could see that. [Laughter.] How are the other hens to-day?—Worse than this one. Was this the only one you could take to court?—Yes. Why?—The rest were too drunk. So that on the whole the Fort William hen is not the worst?—That is so. How do you account for that?—She can stand it better.

"Cross-examined: What do the hens do when they return from the burn?—Sleep. Anything else?—After a sleep they generally fight. Have you no sober hens at all?—Yes, but the drunk ones break their eggs.

"For the pursuer it was contended that he had made out he was entitled to damages. In an able speech for the defense it was submitted that the contention had not been proved.—The condition of the pursuer's hen might be due to influenza.

"His lordship stated that, the case being a peculiar one, he would delay giving a decision that day.

"The court was crowded, and the Fort William hen was the object of much interest outside. A thoughtful individual presented to it fully half a glass of whisky, which it took greedily. This revived it considerably, and it cackled at a great rate, to the intense enjoyment of the bystanders."

CHINESE HUMBUGGERY.

ALL countries have their social fictions, the little "white lies" of society, and the Chinese are by no means an exception. In fact, they seem to have carried the art of "pious deceptions" to a stage of perfection that amazes Europeans. One of these latter, E. H. Parker, relates in *The Contemporary Review* (December) a number of his personal experiences in China. Before speaking of these, he refers in an introductory way to several instances recorded in Chinese history which, he declares, teem with stories of bluff and deception, the one successful in these arts being held up by the historian as a model of wisdom. And yet nowhere in the world, we are assured, is honesty more admired than in China, and instances of unimpeachable integrity are by no means rare there. We infer, therefore, that the deception lauded by the Chinese historians is that practised by the Chinese upon the "foreign devils," an inference that seems borne out by the illustrations recorded by Mr. Parker, some of which are as follows:

"China's greatest military hero, the Emperor T'ang T'ai-tsung, feeling himself insecurely seated on the throne, bluffed a couple of Turkish Khans who were assisting his rivals, by riding almost unattended up to the Turkish lines and challenging the supreme Khan to personal combat. The Turks were so astonished that they could not speak, and, suspecting some trap, at once came to terms. If there was exceptional courage in this bluff, it probably was because the Emperor had Turkish blood in him. Another great general, finding himself short of arrows, conceived the idea of stowing a couple of enormous haystacks on flats, and drifting them down the river through the enemy's lines; the enemy of course thought there were men behind the hay, and when the flats had cleared the enemy's cantonments, over 2,000,000 arrows were picked out uninjured. . . .

"One of the most ingenious 'dodges' I ever heard of was practised by a Chinese general upon our old friends the Turks, who at that time were massacring the Chinese instead of Armenians. The Chinaman had his forces safely posted on one side of a mountain, but it was absolutely essential to success to know by which routes the Turks would fetch the curve. He therefore put one hundred pigeons in two chests, inscribed each chest: 'Cursed be the dastard who opens this.' Of course, the foolish Turks slashed open the boxes, and thus marked with precision their exact positions and movements."

So much for the historical cases. Mr. Parker then proceeds to narrate some of his own experiences:

"What astonished me most was a visit from the 'head thief' on my arrival at Chungking, in 1880. Of course I asked for explanations, and was informed that, for a payment of a dollar a month by way of insurance, the thieves would not molest me. It was the city magistrate's own policeman who volunteered this information. I remember, too, one day at the Peking Legation, in 1871, an old Chinese writer asked us to send a note in the Minister's name to the Foreign Office, and get that august body to move the governor of Peking to return a pair of crystal spectacles which an unknown thief had snatched away from him in the street that morning. The old man insisted upon it that it was quite the right thing to do, and that there was no chance of failure; he added that the custom was for all 'recognized' thieves to hold their plunder to the order of the police for a few days, in case any influential person should ask for it. With the Minister's consent a note was sent, and, sure enough, the captain of gendarmerie returned the spectacles next day, adding that his men had succeeded in apprehending the thief, who would be bastinadoed. . . .

"I remember one case where a salt junk and cargo had been wrongfully seized and sold. The Chinese took very high and

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mighty ground, and stoutly swore the junk lay a mile beyond foreign waters. At the last moment an irrefragable proof of this wrong accidentally turned up in the shape of the slipped anchor, and it was privately arranged with the salt commissioner, in order to 'save the viceroy's face,' that another junk of the same kind should be bought, filled with salt, and unofficially handed over to the foreign authorities, who, on their part, agreed to allow the viceroy's despatch to stand, officially asserting the unjustifiable nature of the junkman's demands. . . .

"Few Chinese servants ever apply for simple leave of absence. It is usually: 'My old mother has an internal pain, and wishes to see me,' or 'My late paternal grandmother is going to have her coffin transferred from its temporary resting-place to the family tomb.' Even viceroys indulge this strange passion. The Viceroy Liu Kin-t'ang of Kashgaria sent up an enormously long memorial when on leave of absence about ten years ago, to justify his remaining in permanent retirement. The Emperor had already granted him several extensions of furlough, but always with the proviso: 'So soon as his grandmother is better, he will return from Hu Nan to his post in Kashgaria.' At last Liu Kin-t'ang drew such a dreadful picture of the old lady's helplessness, of her love for him in particular, how the servants were unable to fathom her mystic utterances, how he washed her in bed with his own hands, etc., that he gained his point. The following is the literal translation of one of the passages:

"'But now, if the nurses show the slightest remissness, she makes quite a terrible mess of her person. I am in daily attendance at her bedside, and see this for myself morning and evening—a succession of most saddening and tear-extracting spectacles.'

He treats the Emperor to page after page of this, and at last overcomes his Majesty. The governor of Hu Nan supports the application, and says:

"'I have invited the local gentry to come and see me, and have inquired of them in person all about his grandmother's sickness; they all agree that she is daily suffering from the malady of increasing age, etc.'

It must not be thought that Liu Kin-t'ang himself invented the grandmother plan; it is quite classical and traditional, and is generally, when adopted, modeled upon the language of one Li Mi, of the Tsin dynasty (A. D. 300), who resolutely declined high office on account of his poor old grandmother. Li Hung Chang himself once officially used the expression: 'The old cow is yearning to lick her calf,' in applying to the Emperor for leave to visit his mother, and it is quite usual for viceroys to ask permission to 'go and imitate old Lai'—a hero of antiquity, who, at the age of seventy, dressed himself up in clownish attire, and capered about the room, in order to make his parents think he was a baby, and forget that they were growing old. . . .

"The Chinese are greater humbugs in their grief than in any other matter. At funerals the eldest son, at least, ought to 'weep at the nose' as well as at the eyes, and usually does so, being often supported, as he staggers along in his grief, by a couple of 'best men.' The concubines are in chairs, and keep up a prolonged howling so long as any one is in sight, chatting gaily, however, or cracking melon-seeds in the intervals. Often and often, during my prowls in the country, has my attention been directed to a group of mourners by the most heartbreaking sobs. On one occasion I stole up and saw a young, good-looking woman kneeling at her husband's grave, while two children were making mud-pies at her side. She kept shrieking: 'Oh! my husband, come back, come back! Oh dear! oh dear! oh dear! I want to die! I am dying with grief!' Every now and then the children would abandon the mud-pies, pull a wry face, and join in for a minute. When the woman caught sight of me, she seized hold of the children with a childish air of delight, and said: 'Look! look! there's a foreign devil.' Then, evidently reflecting on the impropriety of her conduct, she recommenced wailing most piteously. I hurried away, half fearing that I might be charged with some serious crime, so horrid were her cries. When the Viceroy Jweilin died at Canton, one of the consuls, who was a great friend of his, desired to go to the lying-in-state, and it was a serious question how he and his suite should 'howl' when they got there; however, the wailing was compromised for a series of bows. When I arrived at the port the second time, an old Chinaman was announced, and immediately began to wipe his eyes and sob as soon as he saw me. I asked him what was the matter. He said: 'I hear one of your predecessors, who was here five years ago, is dead.' I said: 'Yes! But I can't join you; it is not our custom to cry unless we feel like it.' He said: 'Oh! I beg your pardon,' and at once became as cheerful as possible. It is a punishable offense for an official not to wail in proper form at court. Suksaha, one of the regents during the minority of the Emperor K'ang-hi, was sentenced to death for a number of trumpery 'disloyal' acts, one of which was 'only weeping a short time, and on horseback instead of on foot,' when K'ang-hi's father was buried. The Manchus were originally devoid of all this nonsense, which, however, they have since thought it good policy to borrow from the Chinese.

"When a mandarin arrives at his post, no matter what his private character may be, he usually issues a proclamation in the following style: 'I, the Judge, from my youth upward, have always been imbued with a love of virtue. I uphold the law as solidly as a mountain. All my servants and secretaries are strangers to me, and I do not allow any one to make the slightest squeeze in my name. Alas! ye silly people! I often weep when I think of your requirements. My nights are sleepless in my steady anxiety for good government.' etc."

WHY DO WOMEN LIVE LONGER THAN MEN?

THE average man or woman is apt to answer this question Yankee fashion with another: "Do they?" The statistics seem to leave no room for doubt that the proportion of women among the centenarians is nearly twice that of men. William Kinnear, writing in *The North American Review*, gives some of the figures and speculates lightly on the probable reasons for the fact, but fails to reach any conclusion satisfactory to his own mind. We quote portions of his paper:

"What will surprise most of those who investigate the subject of long life for the first time is the statement that women exceed men to such a great extent. A group of people cited by one of the most careful and least credulous of the numerous English authors of works on the subject shows that out of 66 persons who were a hundred years old and upward, there were 43 women to 23 men. A census of centenarians taken in France in 1895 gives 213 persons of 100 years and over, of whom 147 were women and 66 men. The oldest was a woman who had just died at 150 in a village of the department of Haute Garonne. Nearly all of the centenarians belonged to the lowest ranks of life. In London, the census of 1891 shows 21 centenarians, 5 men to 16 women. Our census of 1890 gives 3,981 persons of 100 years of age, or over, of whom 1,398 were men and 2,583 women. Of course the disproportion is not always so great as this, but it seems to be a well-established fact that woman has the preference in the race for longevity. Tho more boys are born in all countries than girls, it is more difficult to rear them. In the diseases of infancy and early life females appear to have an inherent vitality, and the number of deaths of boys is greater, even then, than the mortality among girl children. Weaker sex, as the men are fond of characterizing them, they excel us in enduring qualities and what is commonly spoken of as 'toughness.' Some physicians think that the greater mortality among boys may be owing to the larger size of their heads, and the more prolonged pressure undergone during birth. There is said to be also less wear and tear of the smaller machinery of the frame with women than there is with men. From this some might expect that small people of both sexes would succeed in living longer than large ones. But this does not seem to be the case. It is noted as a rather curious fact, which is shown by official reports, that the rate of the pulse and of respiration is quicker also in the weaker sex."

Mr. Kinnear notes the further fact that nearly all the centenarians were poor, the rich being at as great disadvantage in the matter of long life as in the matter of entrance into the kingdom of heaven. He continues:

"Again, to return to our centenarians of the female sex. It is said that the very nature of their occupations protects them by keeping them so much in the house, where they are shielded from adverse influences of atmospheric changes, accidental causes of death—to which so many men are subject—and the perils of certain manly pursuits and pleasures. Soldiers, sailors, miners, en-

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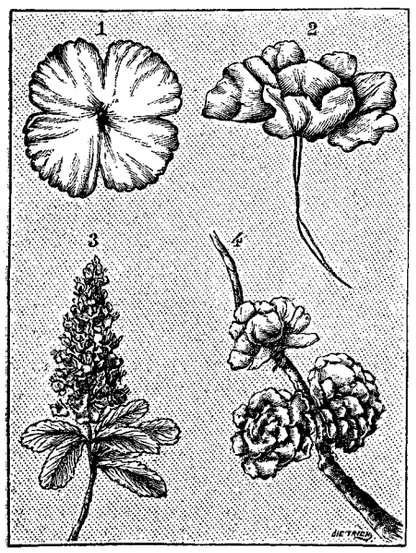
gineers, and persons engaged in similar occupations are all men. But then, do not all reports of the habits of centenarians and the tables of statistics prove that out-of-door exercise is one of the best means of preserving health? Statistical tables may sometimes prove too much. However, there is no record of any modern woman living to such an extreme age as 'Old Parr'—153 years. Tho the number of women who live to a century or a little more is undoubtedly greater than that of men, yet the men in the few cases have gone to a higher figure. And so we shall have to leave the question. There are more women that live long, but they can not go to the highest points."

TREES DECORATED WITH ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

PERHAPS the most striking feature of the decorations during the recent Franco-Russian celebration in Paris was the covering of trees in the parks with artificial flowers, making them look as if spring had come again. To one who did not see this novel form of decoration, it seems odd, if not a little ridiculous; but those who witnessed it testify that it was strikingly beautiful, owing in no small degree, doubtless, to the superior skill of French makers of artificial flowers and to the artistic sense which their workmen instinctively possess. We translate from *La Nature* (November 21) an account of these decorations, and of the manner in which they were carried out:



PAPER FLOWERS USED TO DECORATE TREES IN PARIS.

"The fêtes that have just taken place in the Czar's honor, during the early part of the month of October, gave rise to an ingenious experiment that met with the most decided success. It was attempted to cover the leafless trees of the Champs Elysées with a second blossoming of artificial flowers. This attempt was made by a Paris maker of artificial flowers, M. Roquencourt, who had first made several experiments to see whether a paper could be made impermeable to moisture, and whether the colors white, pink, and red could be fixed so that they would resist the effects of the weather. After several trials, M. Roquencourt obtained the result that he sought and made a quantity of flowers, whose surprising effects on the trees of Rond Point in the Champs Elysées all Paris has been admiring. The manner of making these flowers was very simple and easy. As we have said above, the paper used was treated by a special process so as to be unaffected by the weather. The colors were also fixed by special treatment. If camelia flowers were to be made, as was first done, a series of scalloped circles were first cut out as is shown in Fig. 1; two of these were superposed, taking care to place one on the other in such fashion that the scallops should not coincide. Then the petals were bent by taking them by the outer edges and twisting them slightly. The flower was then traversed by a wire of which one end held the petals and the other served as a support. Fig. 2 shows the arrangement of the flower thus made, which is all ready to be fastened to the tree. It only remains to fix several flowers on one branch as is represented in Fig. 4, and we have a mode of decoration which certainly is quite illusive at a distance.

"Another experiment was made on the occasion of the Franco-Russian fêtes. The attempt was made to imitate the flowers of the chestnut-tree. For this purpose grape-stalks were collected; they were dried and prepared with a special glue that made them quite rigid. Then artificial chestnut flowers were glued to the end of each branch of the stalk, and finally the stalks were fastened to the branches of the trees, being made to stand upright instead of hanging down naturally as they did when they held bunches of grapes (Fig. 3). These attempts at artificial floral decoration are certainly very interesting and deserve mention, even tho the effects obtained were not to be compared with those produced by natural flowers."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

A Decayed Whale Worth $40,000.—The following story is vouched for by *L'Illustration Européenne* (Brussels, November 22), which tells it in an editorial note: "The other day 60 louis [$120] were found in a book that had been the property of the Lyonnet brothers. But a Spanish fisherman, who is at this moment in Paris, has done better yet than this. Recently the Prince of Monaco, on board the *Princess Alice*, killed a whale on the coast of Africa. The prince told the Spanish fisherman of the Azores that he would give the creature to whoever would go and get it. The fishermen did not find the whale till fifteen days afterward, when it was in a state of complete putrefaction. One of them thought, however, that he would stand his ground, while the rest fled from the malodorous creature. It had occurred to him that perhaps he might find a little ambergris in the whale's body. It is well known that ambergris, that precious substance so valued by perfumers, is nothing but a concretion produced in the whale by a diseased liver. The Spaniard's idea was an inspiration; the whale's intestines were full of ambergris. If the Prince of Monaco had not killed it, this whale would certainly have soon died a natural death. The fisherman came to Paris with his find, and has already sold half of it for the neat sum of 100,000 francs [$20,000]. Ten thousand louis from a decayed fish is not at all bad."—*Translated for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

MR. THOMAS KIRK, in a memoir recently published by the Philosophical Society of Wellington, New Zealand, and abstracted in *The Scientific American*, gives some interesting facts about the modifications that the native flora has undergone from the direct or indirect action of man. "Thus, at the present time there are five hundred new species that have been more or less completely acclimated in this country, where they had never existed before. In certain regions such species have obtained such a firm footing that they might readily be taught to be indigenous, if their true history were not known. The indigenous flora has receded before these strangers; and it must not be thought either that it is large plants that are driving the old flora out, for in most cases it is small species which, through numerous and varied mechanisms that it would be interesting to explain in detail, gradually succeed in eliminating plants that at first sight seem to be vigorous and well adapted for a successful struggle for existence."

CORRESPONDENTS' CORNER.

Christian Chronology.

Editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST:—

As the year draws to its close we very properly try to correct the errors of the past and turn over a new leaf. So as the century ends it would be a good time for the nations to correct a few mistakes in our chronology and begin the new century with a reckoning more closely in accordance with the truth. Changes could be affected by international agreement, and if our Government would propose it, others would doubtless cooperate.

Three changes would be advisable:

1. Change the date of 1900 to 1904. All scholars agree that we are at least four years behind in our reckoning. It is not true to say this is the year of our Lord 1896. It ought to be A.D. 1900.

2. The year of Christian reckoning should begin at Christmas, or at the winter solstice, December 21. The beginning at January 1 is the result of an ancient error.

3. The number of months some one has suggested should be increased to thirteen, and each made 28 days, except the last, which would be 29 and in leap year 30. This would be more in accordance with ancient reckoning by the moon and would be more convenient in all calculations. The months would begin upon the same day of the week and very nearly follow the phases of the moon. The first month could be called Oriens, Primus, Christiens, or other names, and the other months retain the present name. Anniversaries and special dates could easily be located in the new reckoning. For example, counting from the winter solstice, Independence Day would be number 197, which would bring it on July 1. The event could be celebrated either on July 1 or 4. It would not be long until all changes would become natural, and then we would have a better and truer Christian chronology.

J. S. AXTELL.

PORTLAND, IND.

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BUSINESS SITUATION.

The reports for the week ending December 26 are not very cheering. While the strictly Christmas trade seems to have been fairly good, the failure of several large banks, a bad break in steel billets, the closing of shoe factories in Lynn, Mass., and a disappointing tone in general trade are reported.

Condition of General Trade.—"The failure of two important banks, the second in size of business at Chicago, and the oldest at St. Paul, with some others dependent on them, closes not favorably a month which promised to end with only moderate commercial disasters. It does not lessen the effect of these failures that one was caused by enormous loans in aid of an electric railway and other concerns, and that the other appears to have resulted from heavy ventures in unsalable real estate. Since several thousand business men and depositors are for the time embarrassed as much as the speculators that caused the trouble, the break-down is the reverse of hopeful at present, altho it comes when money markets are well supplied and when no serious effect in business is to be apprehended."—*Dun's Review, December 26.*

"Retail demand for holiday goods has been active, but it is for cheaper grades than in previous years. . . . The moderate trade revival which followed the last Presidential election has been disappointing, in that, aside from the Christmas demand, business has been more unsatisfactory for a month past than at a corresponding period in many years. The confidence with which merchants and manufacturers have been looking forward to the arrival of the delayed trade revival early in February next is less pronounced than it was, while the prospect for legislation next spring and summer looking to tariff revision, and congressional anxiety to take charge of affairs abroad, is more than likely to put off a permanent revival in business here until next fall."—*Bradstreet's, December 26.*

Exports of Wheat and Corn.—"Exports of wheat (flour included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 2,111,702 bushels, against 3,524,000 last week, 3,457,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 1,814,000 bushels in the week two years ago, 2,036,000 bushels three years ago, and as compared with 2,917,000 bushels in the corresponding period of 1892. Exports of Indian corn this week hold up well, the total amounting to 3,179,000 bushels, as compared with 2,814,000 bushels last week, 1,839,000 bushels in the week one year ago, and with very much smaller totals in like weeks in three preceding years."—*Bradstreet's, December 26.*

Decrease of Railway Earnings.—"The reports of earnings are not cheering, and the aggregate for December thus far has been 4.5 per cent. less than last year and 11.4 per cent. less than in 1892, the granger and other Western roads showing most decrease. Eastbound tonnage from Chicago, 193,853 against 247,245 last year, indicates a growing decrease."—*Dun's Review, December 26.*

Iron and Steel Shake-Up.—The shake-up in the iron and steel prices is nearly complete, and quotations for Bessemer pig iron and for steel billets have gotten down to the level of those for other staples. The break last week precipitated speculation in Bessemer pig iron and billets, and large purchases for an advance and for consumption have been made—more than 300,000 tons of billets—some of it as low as $15, a drop of $5 a ton. The billet pool has been patched up, nominally. Bessemer pig, which went off to $10.50 on the break and on the prospect of a readjustment of costs, is firmer, and has sold at $11. Anxiety is felt in the iron and steel trade as to the uncertainty of the price of lake ore under the new combination to control that staple."—*Bradstreet's, December 26.*

Trouble in the Shoe Business.—"The closing of shops and discharge of hands in the shoe business, especially at Lynn, has been plainly foreshadowed by the weekly report, showing for some time past scarcely any new orders received. Jobbers claim that they can not get the advanced prices demanded, manufacturers claim they can not make shoes with present prices of leather and wages for labor unless they receive even more than the advances asked, and the workingmen quite generally claim that this is only a pretext to secure reduction of wages. Leather does not yield much, tho one or two minor grades are a little lower. Hides are stronger at Chicago, and tanners are confident that prices of leather will be held."—*Dun's Review, December 26.*

Trade in Canada.—"Toronto merchants report trade quiet in wholesale circles and stock-taking in progress, with a fair demand for the season. Montreal merchants report disappointment at the results of annual stock-taking. Dry-goods merchants have not been as successful as expected, with bad debts, low prices, heavy expenses, and competition. Grocery and hardware jobbers have done fairly well. The situation of woollen interests are not satisfactory. There are 45 business failures reported throughout the Dominion of Canada this week, against 39 last week and 30 in the week a year ago."—*Bradstreet's, December 26.*

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CHESS.

[All communications for this Department should be addressed: "Chess Editor, LITERARY DIGEST."]

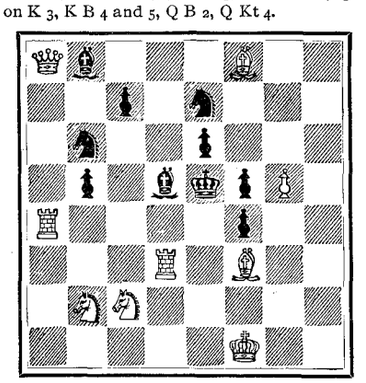
Problem 180.

BY J. G. WITTON, MELBOURNE.

(*From The British Chess Magazine.*)

Black—Ten Pieces.

K on K 4; Bs on Q 4, Q Kt sq; Kts on K 2, Q Kt 3; Ps on K 3, K B 4 and 5, Q B 2, Q Kt 4.



White—Nine Pieces.

K on K B sq; Q on Q R 8; Bs on K B 3 and 8; Kts on Q B 2, Q Kt 2; Rs on Q 3, Q R 4; P on K Kt 5.

White mates in three moves.

Solution of Problems.

No. 176.

1. B–Kt5 ch, PxB must — 2. R-K B 3, K—B 2 — 3. R–R7 ch, K x either Kt — R-Kt7 or Q7, mate

2. ..... K—K 2 — 3. R—R 7 ch, K—B sq or B 3 — R—B 7 ch, mate

3. ..... K—Qs — 4. R—Q 7, mate

2. ..... Either Kt —Kt 3 — 3. R—R 7, Other Kt or P moves — 4. Kt—B 6, mate

2. ..... Kt—B 4 — 3. R—R 7, Kt—Kt 2 — 4. R—Q 7, mate

3. ..... Kt—Kt 3 or B 2 — 4. 4 Kt mates

Correct solution received from F. H. Johnston, Elizabeth City, N. C., who writes: "This problem is an exception to the general rule governing problems—not to make the key-move a checking move—but it is a splendid example of the use of a timely check in order to save and use the real winning piece"; C. F. Putney, Independence, Ia., who says: "I think it one of the prettiest and shrewdest problems I ever saw"; W. G. Donnan, Independence, Ia.; H. Ketcham, Vergennes, Vt.; E. P. Gould, Augusta, Me. If those who sent R—B 6 will look again, they will discover that it will not do:

1. R—Q B 6, Kt—B 2 — 2. B x P, K—K 2

Now there is no mate in two.

Correct solutions received: 172, O. H. Horton, Colfax, Wash.; 173, J. N. Chandler, Des Moines; 174, H. J. Hutson, Fruitlands, N. J.; C. F. Putney, Independence, Ia.; F. H. Johnston, Elizabeth City, N. C.; W. G. Donnan, Independence, Ia.; 175, W. G. Donnan, F. H. Johnston, Dr. Frick, Philadelphia; P. H. S. Vaughan, Augusta, Me.; F. H. Hitchcock, Scranton, Pa.

Steinitz-Lasker Games.

THE FOURTH GAME.

(*Comments by Reichelm in The Times, Philadelphia.*)

The fourth game of the World's Chess-Championship between Lasker and Steinitz was a hard struggle, the veteran fighting with his back to the wall; but either the back or the wall was not quite strong enough to sustain a prolonged siege, and Mr. Steinitz finally had to yield the point.

The moves of this struggle of the giants were:

Ruy Lopez.

LASKER. *White.*	STEINITZ. *Black.*
1 P—K 4	P—K 4
2 K Kt—B 3	Q Kt—B 3
3 B—Kt 5	B—B 4

Steinitz's latest fad defense. Lasker also likes it

4 P—B 3	K Kt—K 2
5 P—Q 4	P x P
6 P x P	B checks
7 B—Q 2	B x B ch
8 Q x B	P—Q 4
9 P x P	K Kt x P
10 B x Kt ch	P x B
11 Castles	Castles
12 Kt—B 3	P—B 3

This peculiar move is to keep White Knight from K 5.

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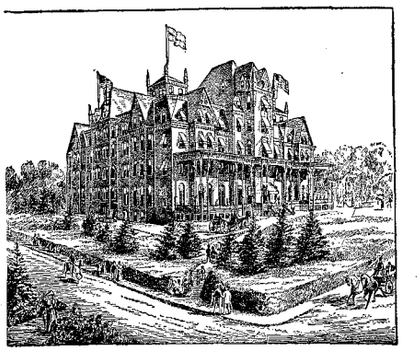

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Pittsburgh Pa

13	K R—K sq	R—Q Kt sq
14	P—K R 3	B—B 4
15	Q R—B sq	Q—Q 3

Black's vulnerable point is on his Queen's Bishop's file.

16	Kt—K R 4	B—Q 2
17	Kt—K 4	Q—B 5
18	Q x Q	Kt x Q
19	Kt—Q B 5	

Notwithstanding Black's efforts Lasker has gained a position of advantage which from now on he nurses into a win.

		19 B—B sq
20	P—Q Kt 3	K—B 2
21	K Kt—B 3	R—K sq
22	R x R	K x R
23	R—K sq ch	K—B 2
24	Kt—Q 2	Kt—K 3

He dislodges one Knight, but another one has been deployed to jump into the vacated position.

25	Kt x Kt	B x Kt
26	Kt—K 2	B—Q 4
27	Kt—B 5	R—Kt 5
28	R—Q sq	K—K 2

We have now reached the end-game stage, and from here on Lasker is peculiarly in his element. His march with the King toward the Queen's Rook Pawn is a remarkable piece of Chess.

29	P—B 3	K—Q 3
30	K—B 2	R—Q Kt sq

Like a man at bay. As yet he sees no win for Lasker, but he imagines a terrible lot.

31	R—K sq	B—B 2
32	Kt—K 4 ch	K—Q 2
33	K—K 3	B—Q 4
34	Kt—B 5 ch	K—Q 3
35	K—Q 3	P—K R 4

Steinitz's attempt to press for a solution on the King's side is a mistake, as it ultimately adds to his defensive difficulties.

36	P—K R 4	R—K R sq
37	K—B 3	R—Q Kt sq
38	P—B 4	R—K Kt sq
39	P—Kt 3	P—Kt 4

Still harboring the idea that he can gain some advantage for himself. P—Kt 3 is correct.

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40	B P x P	P x P
41	R—K 5	P x P
42	P x P	R—Kt 6 ch

Driving Lasker where he wants to go.

43	K—Kt 4	R—Kt 5
44	Kt—Kt 7 ch	K—Q 2
45	R x P	R x P ch
46	K—R 5	B—B 2
47	R—R 6	R—Q 7
48	Kt—B 5 ch	K—K 2
49	P—R 4	R—Q 3
50	R—R 8	R—Q 4
51	P—Kt 4	B—K sq
52	R—R 6	R—B 4
53	R—K 6 ch	K—Q sq
54	R—K 4	K—Q sq
55	K—R 6	B—B 2
56	R—Q 4	B—Q 4
57	K x P	R—R 4
58	R—K B 4	R—R sq
59	P—R 5	B—R 7

Steinitz now can only wait while Lasker finesses the Pawns into a win.

60	P—R 6	B—Q 4
61	P—R 7	B—R 7
62	R—K 4	B—B 2
63	R—R 4	B—R 7
64	Kt—K 4	B—Kt 6
65	P—R 5	B—B 7

66 R—Kt 4 and wins, because if Black takes Pawn he will lose his Rook.

THE FIFTH GAME.

Queen's Gambit Declined.

	STEINITZ. *White.*	LASKER. *Black.*		STEINITZ. *White.*	LASKER. *Black.*
1	P—Q 4	P—Q 4	20	B—K 4 (i)	K—K 2
2	P—Q B 4	P—K 3	21	B—Kt 6 (k)	R—B sq
3	Kt—Q B 3	Kt—K B 3	22	Q R-Kt sq	Q—K Kt 4
4	B—Kt 5	B—K 2	23	B—B 2	R—R sq
5	P—K 3	Castles	24	Q—K 4	B—K 4
6	Q—Kt 3 (a)	P x P (b)	25	K R—Q sq	B x P ch
7	B x P	P—Q B 4	26	K—B sq	P—B 4
8	P x P	Q—R 4 (c)	27	R x P ch (l)	B x R
9	Kt—B 3	Q x P	28	Q x B ch (m)	K—B 3
10	Castles	Kt—B 3	29	Kt x K P (n)	Q—Kt sq
11	B—Q 3 (d)	Kt-Q Kt 5 (e)	30	Kt—Q 4	R—Q sq
12	B x Kt	P x B (f)	31	B x P	B—K 4
13	B-Kt sq) (g)	R—Q sq	32	B—K 4 (o)	Q—B 5 ch
14	P—Q R 3	Kt—Q 4	33	B—Q 3	Q x P
15	Q—B 2	P—B 4	34	Q—K 4	B x Kt
16	Kt—Q 4	B—B 3	35	P x B	Q x Q P
17	P—K Kt 4	Kt x Kt	36	Q—Kt 6 ch	K—K 2
	(h)		37	R-K sq ch	K—B sq
18	P x Kt	P x P	38	Q—B 5 ch	K—Kt sq
19	Q x P ch	K—B sq	39	Q-Kt 6 ch (p)	Drawn

Notes by Emil Kemeny in The Ledger, Philadelphia.

(a) Kt—B 3 or B—Q 3 is the usual play and probably better than the move selected.

(b) P—B 3 was a more conservative move. The line of play adopted is somewhat dangerous.

(c) He could not well play B x P on account of R—Q sq followed by Kt—K 4.

(d) Necessary, for Kt—Q R 4 was threatening.

(e) A move of questionable value, as White's proper reply, B x Kt, shows. Black cannot answer Kt x B, for Kt—K 4, followed by B x B, is threatening.

(f) B x B was not any better; White had simply replied Kt—K 4, followed by Kt x B ch, and Black would have to capture with P, otherwise losing Kt.

(g) The attack White obtains by B—Kt sq, followed by P—Q R 3 and Q—R 2, is quite promising, yet it was hardly the best play. B—K 2, followed by Q R—B sq and K R—Q sq, would have given a much superior development.

(h) This move may seem hazardous, yet White has started a bold attack, and he must keep it up.

(i) Looks dangerous, for it cuts off the retreat of White's Queen. Instead of B—K 4, White might have played R—R 2, followed eventually by R—Q 2 or R—Q Kt 2.

(k) To prevent Black from R—R sq winning the Queen. It seems B—Kt 2 would have been a preferable play. White then could retreat his Queen to K 4 with at least an even game, for Black Queen's wing is not developed.

(l) The sacrifice of the exchange is quite satisfactory, for it gives White considerable attack, and at least secures a draw. It seems, however, that White had a much better continuation, namely, Kt x P ch. Black could not answer Q x Kt on account of Q—Kt 4 ch winning the Queen. Should Black play in reply to Kt x P ch, K—B 3, which seems the best, then White might follow up the attack with R—Kt 5 threatening Q—Q 4 ch.

(m) White could not play Q x K P ch followed by B—Kt 3, for Black could satisfactorily defend with K—B sq and R—R 2.

(n) Kt x B P it seems was more forcible. Black could not answer P x Kt on account of Q—B 6 ch, followed by R—Q 7 ch, winning in a few moves. Should Black reply R—K sq then White continues R—Q 7 with good winning chances.

(o) R—Q 3 at once was preferable, preventing Black from Q—B 5 ch winning the Q B P.

(p) White is obliged to draw the game with perpetual check, for hd has no time to make a preparatory move. He is the exchange behind, and Black threatens R—R 8 ch as well as Q—B ch.

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Current Events.

Monday, December 21.

In the Senate the Cameron Cuban resolution is reported and laid over until after the holiday recess; other resolutions on the same subject are introduced by Senators Vest, Hill, Bacon, and Chilton. . . . The House considers the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill; a conference with the Senate on the Immigration Restriction bill is agreed to. . . . The Senate Committee on Commerce orders a favorable report on appropropriating $250,000 for stopping the crevasse in the mouth of the Mississippi at Point l'Outre. . . . It is reported that the Spanish Ministers of War and Marine have approved plans of operation against the United States in the event of war; demonstrations of sympathy with Cubans are being held in New York and other cities. . . . The annual report of Secretary Carlisle of the Treasury Department is made public. . . . The Illinois National Bank of Chicago fails with liabilities of $11,000,000; three other banking concerns fail in consequence. . . . General William Cullom, ex-clerk of the House of Representatives, dies in Clinton, Tenn.

Of the Barcelona bomb-throwers four will be shot, eighty will be imprisoned, four for life. . . . A Radical member of the Italian Chamber gives notice of his intention to introduce a motion expressing sympathy with the Cuban insurgents. . . . The civil trial of Julio Sanguily, a naturalized American citizen, on charges of conspiracy against the Spanish Government, begins in Audencia, Cuba. . . . It is reported from Rio de Janeiro that Brazil will claim the territory now in dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela.

Tuesday, December 22.

In the Senate the Pacific Railroad Funding bill is discussed; the Urgent Deficiency bill is passed. . . . The House passes the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill after a lively debate over civil service. . . . Both houses adjourn to January 5. . . . The Bank of Minnesota, St. Paul, and two smaller banks fail. Judge Tuley enjoins the Central Elevator Company of Chicago from dealing in grain at the suit of the Illinois Attorney-General. . . . The will of Henry L. Pierce, Boston, contains bequests of $530,000 to Massachusetts institutions, and $800,000 to his employees.

The Spanish Cabinet decides that President Cleveland's message affects the Cortes, and should be read before that body, which is not now in session. . . . A sensation was caused by a public protest made to the succession of the Right Rev. Dr. Temple to the Archbishopric of Canterbury during the confirmation ceremony in London. . . . The Sultan grants amnesty to 2,000 Armenian prisoners and commutes other sentences.

Wednesday, December 23.

President Cleveland formally recognizes the new greater Republic of Central America composed of Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras, receiving J. D. Rodriguez, American Minister. . . . Three more business failures occur in Chicago; the Bank of West Superior, Wis., depositor in the closed Illinois National, fails; members of the banking firm of E. S. Dreyer and Co., Chicago, are arrested, charged with receiving deposits when insolvent. . . . The American Banking and Trust Co., Auburn, Me., fails. . . . Stockholders of the Holliston (Mass.) National Bank decide to wind up its affairs. . . . Judge Ross, United States Court, Los Angeles, Cal., decrees the foreclosure and sale of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad; Judge Fouke, Sangamon Circuit Court, orders the sale of the St. Louis, Chicago, and St. Paul Railroad ("Bluff Line"); The St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad is sold under foreclosure at Hastings, Nebr., to first-mortgage bondholders. . . . Street railway employees in Boston order a strike. . . . Manufacturers of steel billets arrange a pool on the allotment basis.

An extensive plan of campaign in Cuba is outlined for General Weyler. . . . It is said that Queen Victoria will write a biography. . . . The Ambassadors of the powers in Constantinople are instructed to submit fresh demands for reforms in the Turkish Empire and to enforce them by means of coercion if necessary; the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople resigns. . . . France decrees the abolition of slavery in Madagascar.

Thursday, December 24.

Boston street-railway employees go on strike. . . . The Calumet Bank, Blue Island, Ill., fails. . . . The Missouri Supreme Court pronounces unconstitutional the provision of the city charter of Kansas City imposing a fine of $2.50 for failure to vote. . . . The schooner *Calvin B. Orcutt* and all her crew are lost in the storm at Chatham, Mass. . . . The report of the committee on draft of charter of the Greater New York Commission is made public. . . . Ex-Congressman W. H. Hatch dies in Hannibal, Mo.

Enrique Delgado, a New York newspaper correspondent, is a prisoner in Havana, charged with being a rebel officer. . . . Consul-General Lee leaves Port Tampa for Havana. . . . It is reported that a few days ago a regiment of Turkish troops mutinied for arrears of pay and proper clothing; their demands were complied with. . . . Alfred Noble, the Swedish engineer and chemist, who died on December 9, bequeathed his fortune, amounting to $10,000,000, to the Stockholm University.

Friday, December 25.

A despatch from Paris says that the United States has been confidentially informed in the most friendly terms that the European Powers could not remain impassive in the event of the United States abandoning the attitude of President Cleveland and his Cabinet. It is said that Germany is already prepared to side with Spain in the event of the United States showing that she is disposed officially to side with the rebels. . . . The Boston strike is declared "off" but unsettled. . . . Ex-Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii arrives in Boston. . . . General Weyler is hung in effigy in Cape May and New Brunswick, N. J.

Señor Canovas again affirms that Spain is prepared to grant reforms to Cuba. . . . A reception is given to Cecil Rhodes in Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, previous to his departure for England. . . . Armenians in Constantinople are dissatisfied with the alleged amnesty recently granted by the Sultan.

Saturday, December 26.

The story that the European Powers have warned the United States against interference in Cuba is discredited in Washington. . . . Directors of the failed National Bank of Illinois hold a conference with Controller Eckels in Washington; John C. McKeon, National Bank examiner for Chicago, is appointed receiver. . . . The Atlas National Bank of Chicago decides to retire f. l business. . . . Señor José Andrade, Venezuelan Minister to the United States, and James J. Storrow, of Boston, counsel to the Venezuelan Government, arrive from Caracas and proceed to Washington.

Consul-General Lee arrives in Havana and resumes his official duties. . . . Colonels White and Grey, two of Dr. Jameson's associates in the Transvaal raid, are released from Holloway jail, their terms of imprisonment having expired. . . . Professor Emil Du Bois-Raymond, a distinguished physiologist, dies in Berlin.

Sunday, December 27.

A train jumps a bridge on the Birmingham Mineral road in Alabama, causing the death of twenty-seven or more persons. . . . Otto Wasmansdorff, a Chicago banker, who failed last Monday, commits suicide. . . . Charles W. Hoffman, LL.D., for twenty-six years librarian of the Supreme Court of the United States, dies in Frederick, Md.

The non-union men who took the places of the striking dock laborers in Hamburg have made a demand for higher wages; the employers have informed them that they may expect the same resistance to their demands that was given to the old hands. . . . Sir John Brown, one of the first in Great Britain to advocate the plating of war-ships with armor, dies in Brighton, England. . . . General John Meredith Read, the well-known American diplomatist, dies in Paris.

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W. S. A., Columbus, O.: "I have had the Standard Dictionary in constant use in my schoolroom for several months and find it a grand book and just what I want. It is consulted more frequently than any dictionary I have ever had. The scholars become so interested in it that sometimes they forget what they are looking for. My firm belief is that every schoolroom should have a copy. The ease with which the key to pronunciation is mastered is marvelous. There is a plan in it. The diacritical markings in the other dictionaries differ widely and seem to be nothing but the arbitrary signs without any kind of system. The Standard as a pronouncing dictionary is worth many times its cost. I notice you announce a Student's Standard. When will this be completed? I want each scholar in my school to have it. I would like each one to own a copy of the Standard, but a number of them can't afford it now."

Your remarks emphasize what has already been said by hundreds of teachers. The Standard Dictionary Key to Pronunciation is the simplest yet contrived. It is systematic as you say, and therefore easily remembered. We now have accurate pronunciation made easy. The Student's Standard will be completed early next year. It is being finished as rapidly as accuracy will permit.

H. G. D., McComb, Ohio: "I can not find the following words in my copy of your wonderful Standard Dictionary. (1.) *Bay-window*, referred to under bow-window. (2.) *Tour*, as used in the expression 'He works on tour,' used frequently here. (3.) *Zizanian*, a word used by the Rev. Prof. W. G. Moorhead in an address to the Prophetic Conference at Allegheny, Pa. (4.) *Burnsides*, a style of wearing whiskers."

We would invite your attention to a competition now advertised in our publications and open to all. The subject is "How to use a Dictionary." There is a great need of instruction on the use of dictionaries. The majority of persons seeking a word take a casual glance at a dictionary vocabulary, their eyes do not alight at once on the word they seek and they hastily conclude the words are omitted. Please turn to page 173, column 3, and under *bay*[5], n., you will find two definitions of *bay-window*, which occupy six lines. Also, if you will refer to page 1,908, column 1, you will find a full definition of *tour* in the same sense you mention. Definition 4 reads: "A turn or shift as of duty or service." As to *Zizanian*, this adjective is probably derived from the botanical genus *Zizania*, recorded on page 2,096, column 3, of the Standard Dictionary. Adjectives similar to this can be formed almost indiscriminately from any nouns, but you will seldom find them recorded by the best dictionaries. Thus, tho the noun is recorded by the Standard Dictionary, Century, Webster, and Worcester, none of these dictionaries recognizes the adjective. *Burnsides* is barely a dictionary word. It is on a par with many other words of the same class that can be formed without limit at the whim of any one. Thus we *might* have *Chaunceys*, *Comstocks*, etc. The word is not to be found in any dictionary and we doubt if it has the support of literary usage or authority.

J. B. P., St Joseph, Mo.: "Edgecumbe Mount is described by the Standard only as applying to New Zealand, while the original Mount Edgecumbe, a promontory and castled residence of the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe near Devenport, or Plymouth, England, is omitted. How about this?"

The Mount Edgecumbe mentioned by our correspondent is better known in literature as the seat of the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe than as a mountain. So unimportant is it that it is not recorded in gazetteers and cyclopedias but from what we have found in the authorities available it appears to be a cliff of little historical importance. It is probably less than 5,000 feet high and would therefore be excluded from the Standard Dictionary Appendix. If rules for exclusion had not been adopted the Standard's Appendix would have exceeded its vocabulary in size.

Dr. S. R. J., San Francisco, Cal.: "I am an enthusiastic and firm believer in all the Standard Dictionary says, but I need a little information. During an argument the other day, I had occasion to consult the Standard and was somewhat surprised to find the information it afforded me so much at variance with what I had been taught at college. The information I seek is in reference to the fusing points of metals. I was taught and studied from Essig, that the melting-point of *Gold* was 2,016° F.—the Standard gives it as 1,913° F. *Silver*, 1,873° F.—Standard gives 1,750° F. *Copper*, 1,996° F.—Standard gives 1,931° F. *Zinc*, 773° F.—Standard gives 811½° F. *Platinum*, oxyhydrogen blow-pipe.—Standard gives 3,225° F., etc.

Chambers's Encyclopædia coincides with Essig. Now you can readily understand what I desire to know. What makes this large variation, and in what manner, if any, different than formerly, have the Standard's fusing-points been obtained to make the figures more exact?"

To be a firm believer in all the Standard Dictionary says is to believe in accuracy. The Standard is the work of experts from cover to cover. A perusal of the following extract from a letter received from the Chief Chemist of the United States Geological Survey, Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, who compiled the Standard's table of elements, will furnish "Dr. S. R. J." with the information he seeks, and enhance the Standard's reputation for accuracy:

"The data needed are only known approximately and different determinations differ. Refer to Landolt and Börnstein's *Physikalisch-chemische Tabellen* for fuller information. Here you will find all good authorities cited, with reference to original literature. The last data I have in Fahrenheit degrees are as follows. I give authority:

Gold,	1,895°	Violle.
Silver,	1,750°	"
Copper,	1,931°	"
Platinum,	3,225° to 3,230°	Violle.
Zinc.	788°	Riemsdijk.

"Probably your correspondent has been using some of the older data. Even these which I give you are subject to further correction, which may amount to 25° for silver, gold, copper; 10° for zinc, and even 500° in the case of platinum. Measurements of high temperatures are less exact than those of low temperatures. Yours truly,

"F. W. CLARKE."

N. I., New York city: "I came across the term *merognostic* the other day and failed to find it in any dictionary available. I feel confident that had I been home, I would have found it in my copy of the Standard which has never failed me. It is very provoking to consult a dictionary for information that you have reason to believe should be given in an unabridged work and yet not be able to find it. Please give me the meaning of the word."

The Standard Dictionary gives a clear definition of *merognostic* and a quotation from Joseph Cook. It reads: "One who claims to know in part, as distinguished from *gnostic* and *agnostic*; a term suggested by Dr. McCosh of Princeton, on the basis of Paul's expression in 1 Cor. xiii. 12."

A. Conan Doyle, the eminent English novelist, London: "*It has become quite a joke with us that we* can not trip up this dictionary. We have several times been sure that we would, but have always failed."

T. M., Harlem, N. Y.: "Will you kindly turn some light on the following taken from the *Herald*: 'When she was placed in a cell she began to sing and cut up queer didoes.' What is a *dido*? Altho I possess Worcester's Dictionary and the Encyclopædic Dictionary, which I bought recently because it claims to be the latest dictionary published, I was very much surprised to find that neither of these books of reference affords me any information on this subject."

What you need is a modern dictionary. Worcester has not been revised for many years and is therefore out of date now, and the first volume of the original Encyclopædic Dictionary, published in England, of which yours is a reprint, is nearly twenty years old. The Standard Dictionary gives a very full definition of *dido* and also defines the phrase used above.

> **di'do,** dai'dō, *n.* [Colloq., U. S.] An extravagant action; caper; antic. [< *Dido*, queen of Carthage, who, having bought as much land as a bull's hide could cover, cut the hide into thin strips, and enclosed with it a large area.] —**to cut up didoes,** to behave in an extravagant or mischievous manner.

Of all books none should be subjected to so careful an examination before purchase as a dictionary. People very frequently mistake bulk for quality. Paper and printer's ink are cheap. The publishers of the Standard Dictionary employed 247 eminent editors and specialists to evolve this "the greatest work of the 19th century" at a cost of more than $960,000.

J. H. J., Minneapolis, Minn.: "In the course of my reading I have recently come across several words which I can not find in Webster's International Dictionary. You may imagine my surprise when I tell you that I went to our library here to hunt the words up in the Century Dictionary, but also failed to find two of them in that work. The words I refer to are *larrikin*, *brumby*, and *brickfielder*. If your Standard Dictionary contains them please express me a copy in two volumes, C.O.D."

The words "J. H. J." draws attention to are Australian-English and are but two out of a total of 75,000 not to be found in any other dictionary but the Standard. Each one is given in its proper vocabulary place by the Standard which is the most recent dictionary published. We append the definitions, and it is needless to say we have forwarded our correspondent a copy of the Standard in two volumes, full Russia binding.

> **brick'field''er,** bric'fild''ėr, *n.* [S. Australia.] A hot wind carrying clouds of dust.
> **brum'by,** brum'bi, *n.* [Australia.] A wild horse. **brom'by‡.**
> **lar'ri-kin,** lar'i-kin. [Australia.] **I.** *a.* [Colloq.] Boisterously rude; rowdy. **II.** *n.* A rough, disorderly fellow; rowdy; hoodlum.—**lar'ri-kin-ism,** *n.*

English observers report the antipodean *larrikin* as the most offensive variety of the race now extant—*Evening Sun* [New York], Oct. 11, 1892, p. 4, col. 3.

R. G. K., Geneva, O.: "In a recent discussion of financial questions with a prominent citizen of Ashtabula, he contended that all government money was *fiat money*, and that its current commercial value is that given by authority, and does not depend upon its intrinsic worth. Therefore, he claimed that a silver dollar stamped by the government is just as good as a gold dollar. He objected to the definition in the Standard Dictionary, insisting that it was made to extend to paper money only in the interests of the goldbugs."

The definition in the Standard was made before the first volume of the Dictionary was published, which was three years ago. The definition in Webster's International was made before 1889. The definition in the Century Dictionary was made more than ten years ago and that in Worcester's Dictionary, in the supplement, was probably made some ten or fifteen years ago. Without an exception these dictionaries say that *fiat money* is an "irredeemable paper money."

The true lexicographer is not biased by political preferences, but states facts as they exist.

New York Observer, New York. "Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary is, indeed, a prodigious work . . . The knowledge and experience of the most able minds of the age in all the departments of art and science, of literature and learning, have practically been focused, and the result is a dictionary so thorough in details, so comprehensive in its reach, so accessible and intelligible to the student of even average attainments, and yet so satisfactory to the profoundest scholar that it must be conceded a place undreamed of and till now unfilled."

D. A. W. J., New Concord, Ohio: THE PRONUNCIATION OF "TRUTHS."—If you will look on page 2274, column 3, of your copy of the Standard you will find your question answered. We are obliged to you for directing our attention to the misprint—the pronunciation should have been "trūths" and not "trūthz."

If R. T. N., Los Angeles, Cal., will compare the definition of *baseball* in the Standard Dictionary with that of the word as given in his dictionary or any other, his question will be answered.

F. C. F., Reading, Pa.; The English pronunciation of Don Quixote according to the Standard Dictionary, page 2149 is Don Cwix'ot, the Spanish pronunciation is Dōn kî-hō'tê.

A. De R. M., Baltimore, Md.: "Your Standard Dictionary may contain 'about 75,000 more terms than any other dictionary ever published,' but I find the verb 'anchylosed' in Webster's and Worcester's and it is not to be found in yours. You may find it in the 'Scientific American' of September 26th, middle column, page 17,291."

You have not *looked to find* the word or you would have found it in the Standard. On page 76, column 3, lines 24 and 25 you will find *anchylose* recorded, and referred to its preferred modern form, which is given on page 82, column 3, line 13 from bottom of page, as follows:

> **anky-lose,** } *vt.* & *vi.* [-LOSED;-LO''SING.] To
> **an'cy-lose,** } produce ankylosis in; have ankylosis. **an'chy-lose‡.**
> **anky-losis,** } *n.* **1.** *Anat.* & *Zool.* The
> **ancy-losis,** } knitting or growing together of two bones or parts of bones; immovable union of bones or other structures. **2.** *Pathol.* Stiffness of a joint, or the formation of a stiff joint. [< Gr. *ankylōsis*, < *ankylos*, bent, < *ankos*, bend.] **an''chy-lo'sis‡.—an''chy-lot'ic, an''cy-lot'ic, an''ky-lot'ic,** *a.*

D. O. C., New York: "In the New York *Sun* of Sept. 24th, first column, I find 'There was a deafening beating of tom-toms,' etc. Will you kindly tell me what tom-tom means?"

If you fail to find a satisfactory definition in your dictionary, or if this word is not defined there, it might be well to turn to the Standard where it is not only clearly defined, but where an illustration exhibiting three varieties of the *tom-tom* is given.

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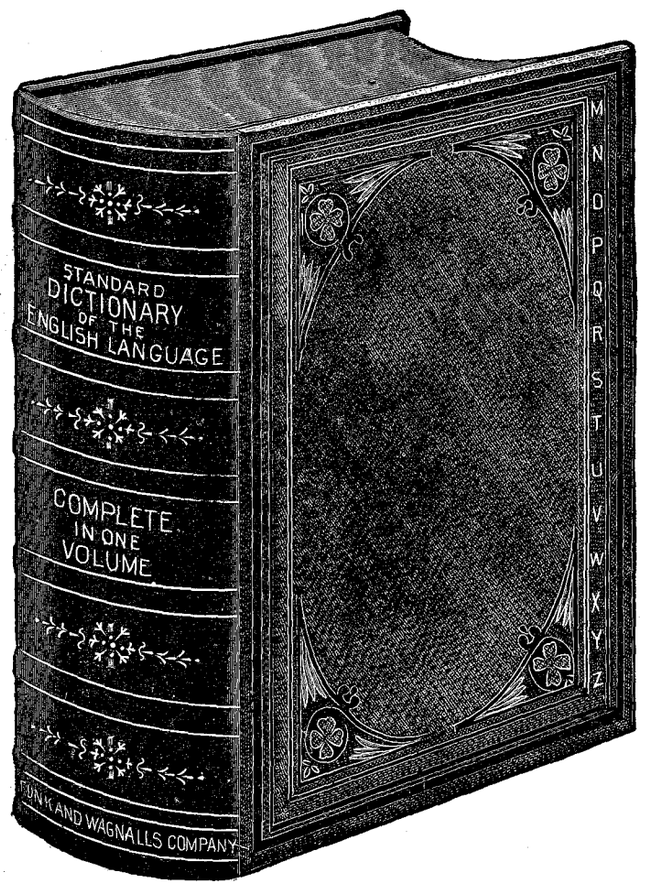

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